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AFTA Nations Present Tariff-Cut Offers

BK1212042592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Jakarta—Thailand presented its list of products on which tariffs will be reduced at a meeting of ASEAN countries here yesterday.

The ASEAN Council ministerial meeting endorsed products for tariff reduction and a 15-year implementation plan.

It was agreed that each country must review its lists and move towards further tariff reductions.

The Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) programme for cutting tariffs to 0-5 percent within 15 years is to be the main mechanism for creating free trade in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

But 15 product sectors under a fast track programme will have their tariff cuts accelerated to 0-5 percent within 7-10 years.

ASEAN member countries agreed that each country has the right to exclude some products from the fast track programme, creating an "exclusion list."

Thailand proposed to cut tariffs on 90.38 percent of its manufactured products, excluding only 150 products from the accelerated tariff cuts. It has withdrawn only 118 items from the programme for the first seven years.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Panitphakdi, who led the Thai delegation, said the Thai proposals were a "model" for other ASEAN countries.

It proved, he said, that the Chuan Government did not have any desire to delay the progress of the free trade area.

During last month's AFTA Council meeting in Manila, Thailand was strongly criticised for having an unclear position on AFTA.

But this time, Dr Supachai said, there is no doubt about Thailand's position.

"We proved that we are in fact better prepared than other ASEAN countries on this," he said.

Dr Supahchai said that during the meeting he tried to convince other ASEAN countries that tariff reductions do not mean they will lose benefits.

On the contrary, they will gain, because low tariff barriers will stimulate foreign investors to relocate production plants from non-ASEAN countries to the region, he said.

The Anan Panyarachun government unilaterally announced a reduction of the tariffs on almost all manufaetured goods to 30 percent beginning January 1, 1993.

Dr Supachai said Thailand has offered to bring 4,700 items of its total of 5,200 products under the tariff-reduction programme.

"After Singapore and Brunei we had the least number of products excluded from the programme," he said.

Thailand proposes to cut tariffs on 1,936 products under the fast track programme, representing 92.81 percent of the total of 2,086 items.

150 items will be excluded from the programme during the 7-10 years: plastic products, electrical parts and components and petrochemical products.

Thailand wants to reduce the number of exclusions to 118 items, and bring 2,764 items under the normal track for tariff cuts. Its position will be revised in the eighth year.

Dr Suphachai said Thailand has demonstrated to other ASEAN countries that it is ready to begin implementation at the date announced by the Anan government.

Thailand will start cutting tariffs on the fast track programme in the third year at the 5 percent gradual rate.

For the normal track programme, Thailand will start to reduce tariffs on products which are higher than 20 percent in the sixth year, and will reduce the tariffs on products which are below 20 percent in the fourth year.

The summary list of products shows that the Philippines proposed to bring 4,112 items to participate under the CEPT scheme, representing only 73.94 percent of its total products.

The Ramos government decided to withdraw 1,158 items from the list of fast track products, and agreed for the participation of 862 items of the 15 categories of products, or 42.67 percent of its total fast track products.

For the exclusion list, the Philippines decided to exclude 1,199 items from the tariff-reduction programme.

Indonesia proposed to exclude many small-scale industry products from the fast track and normal track lists.

Further on AFTA Tariff-Cut Plans

BK1212063592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Dec 92 p A1

[Text] Jakarta—Asian economic ministers yesterday agreed to drastic tariff cuts, using timetables they believe could herald a true regional free trade area ahead of the 15-year schedule.

Starting on Jan 1, 1993, the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations [ASEAN] will launch the regional free trade area under which tariffs for manufactured and processed agricultural products will eventually be cut to zero per cent to five per cent.

On average, the ASEAN members will include about 87 per cent of their total tariff lines, which range in number from 5,200 for Thailand to 11,746 for Malaysia, into the tariff reduction programme, designed to intensify intra-ASEAN trade and attract more foreign investment.

However, the immediate impact of the tariff reduction programme on trade and investment in the region as a whole cannot be fully assessed pending the submissions on Dec 22 of the final lists of products earmarked tor tariff cuts.

"We cannot estimate the immediate impact of AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) because we have to wait for the final lists on Dec 22 to know the actual value base," said Rizalino Navarro, the Philippine's secretary for trade and industry.

"By then the private sector will know how much market access they will get from AFTA," added Rafidah Aziz, the Malaysian minister for international trade and industry.

AFTA is part of an ambitious ASEAN programme to strengthen its economic competitiveness amid growing competition in global trade.

The launch on Jan 1 will coincide with the creation of the single European market and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). ASEAN leaders have been quick to assert that AFTA is consistent with the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and aimed at liberalizing trade and investment within the region.

On average, 10 per cent of ASEAN members' tariff lines have been temporarily excluded from the AFTA scheme so that the local industries have more time to adjust to the external competition.

Tariff cuts under AFTA are divided into two programmes: fast track and normal track. The fast track schedule covers 15 sectors—vegetable oils, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, plastics, rubber and rubber products, leather and leather products, pulp, textiles, ceramic and glass products, jewelry, copper cathodes, electronics, and wooden and rattan furniture.

All the ASEAN members are committed to participate in the fast track programme, but they are allowed to temporarily exclude some items from each of the 15 sectors from tariff cuts.

In the fast track, Thailand will exclude 118 items from a total of 1,199 tariff lines, compared to zero items from 2,200 tariff lines for Singapore, 862 items from 1,199 tariff lines for the Philippines, 648 items from 3,251 tariff lines for Malaysia, 1,708 items from 3,165 tariff lines for Indonesia and 166 items from 1,826 tariff lines for Brunei.

For products under the fast track, tariffs above 20 per cent will be cut to zero per cent to five per cent within 10 years and tariffs at 20 per cent and below to zero per cent to five per cent within seven years.

"We'll try to remove all the excluded items in the future. If we can put them on the fast track, we will not hesitate to do it," said Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Suphachai Panitphakdi, who headed the Thai delegation to this third AFTA Council meeting.

Under the normal track, all tariffs of manufactured goods of 20 percent or below will be reduced to zero per cent to five per cent within 10 years. However, tariffs above 20 per cent will be cut in two stages: first, to 20 per cent within five to eight years and subsequently to zero per cent to five per cent in seven years.

"Thus, while the time frame stipulated in the (tariff reduction plan) for bringing tariffs down to zero per cent to five per cent is 15 years, the presently agreed upon schedules of tariff reduction would bring tariffs down to such a level ahead of 15 years," said the ASEAN joint statemnt.

Another crucial agreement that emerged from yesterday's meeting was the 40-per cent cumulative local content provision. To qualify for tax concessions under AFTA, a manufactured product must carry at least 40 per cent in local content from any single ASEAN country or a combination of ASEAN members.

ASEAN To Move Toward Free Trade Region

BK1212071092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] ASEAN will gradually cut import tariffs and remove nontariff barriers next year in a move towards a free trade region. Philippine Secretary of Trade Rizalino Navarro said this at a news conference at the end of a one-day ministerial meeting of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA, Council in Jakarta. All six member countries will simultaneously announce in the 22d of this month a list of products included in tariff cuts.

The phasing in of the new tariff list covering manufactured and processed agricultural products will begin in the first of next month. The products included in the Common Effective Preferential Tariff, CEPT, scheme cover 38,308 groups or 87 percent of the total tariff lines of ASEAN member countries. An Indonesian official said the remaining 13 percent are temporarily or permanently excluded but their status will be reviewed in eight years.

The AFTA Council also agreed that the program would include a fast track and a normal track with the fast track covering the 15 product groups identified at the ASEAN summit earlier this year. They are vegetable oils, cement, drugs, chemicals, fertilizers, plastics, rubber products, leather goods, pulp, textiles, glass and ceramic wares, jewellery and precious gems, copper cathodes, electronic goods, and wood and rattan furniture. Tariffs on these products will be reduced to between zero and five percent over between seven and 10 years, with the latter deadline applying to products that currently have import tariffs of more than 20 percent.

Under the normal track system, ASEAN goods with import tariffs higher than 20 percent will be reduced to 20 percent within eight years at the latest and further reduced to between zero and five percent in another seven years. Under the same scheme, product groups with tariffs of up to 20 percent will have their tariffs reduced to between zero and five percent within 10 years.

Malaysia's international trade and industry minister, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, said the upcoming announcement is really meant for the private sector which would know how much market access it has into each other's markets.

AFTA CEPT Import Tax Reduction Announced

BK2212072292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0613 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 22 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia has offered 3,251 items for import duty reduction between seven and 10 years on the fast track under the common effective preferential tariff [CEPT] scheme as the ASEAN region gears towards the creation of a free trade area.

These items constitute 27.7 percent of the total 11,746 tariff lines offered. Fifteen product sectors have been earmarked under the fast track or accelerated tariff reduction programme (ATR).

The eventual tariff level in the ASEAN region will be between zero to five percent by the year 2007, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz announced here Tuesday.

Another 6,895 product lines had been offered for tariff reduction under the normal track of within 10 to 15 years, she said.

Simultaneous announcements are being made at each ASEAN capital of the tariff reduction programmes under the CEPT, the mechanism to achieve AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area].

However, Malaysia has excluded temporarily 648 items from the CEPT scheme for a period of 10 years.

"These items are either considered as sensitive to the domestic manufacturers, strategic or products earmarked for investment promotion," she said.

Another 952 items comprising products classified as raw agriculture and general exception products such as guns, ammunittion and pornographic materials are permamently excluded from CEPT scheme.

The 15 product sectors offered under the fast track are vegetable oils, cement, chemicals, pharmaceutical, fertilizers, plastics, rubber products, leather and leather products, gems and jewellery, copper cathode, electronics and wooden and rattan furniture.

Elaborating on the product lines offered under the fast track mechanism, she said all items in six product sectors—pharmaceutical, vegetable oils, leather, pulp, gems and jewellery, and copper cathode were offered in entirety.

For rubber product sector, only pneumatic tyres and tubes are excluded. Others excluded are 29 textile items, 60 ceramic products, four wooden and rattan furniture items, 31 chemical products and two cement products.

Malaysia and Singapore will implement the ATR from 1993, Brunei Darussalam in 1994, Indonesia and Thailand in 1995 and Philippines, in 1996.

"The depth and starting date may differ among ASEAN countries but all these import duties must be reduced to zero to five percent by end-1999 or 2002,"she pointed out.

Under the normal track where Malaysia's offer covers 59 percent of the total tariff lines, import duties above 20 percent will be reduced to 20 percent within eight years and another five percent every two years from the year 2003.

For products with import duties of 20 percent and below, the duties will be reduced to zero to five percent within 10 years.

Malaysia and Singapore will implement the reduction of duties under the normal track from 1993 while Brunei Darussalam will effect the reduction of duties above 20 percent in 1994, Philippines in 1996, and Indonesia and Thailand in 1998.

For duties at 20 percent and below, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Philippines will commence the reduction in 1996 while Thailand will only effect the cuts in 1999.

Philippines and Thailand will delay the rollback process as they will be undertaking unilateral tarrif reductions from 1993.

For example, Thailand has already committed to cut back the tariff level to 30 percent by January 1, 1993.

Rafidah stressed that the CEPT covered all manufactured and processed agriculture products, either through fasat track or the normal track.

Se said Indonesia offered a total of 9.2222 product items under the CEPT (including exclusions), Brunei Darussalam (6,544), Singapore (5,832), Philippines (5,561) and Thailand (5,318).

Of the total, Indonesia offered 3,165 items for import duty reduction under the fast track, Singapore (2,200), Thailand (1,936), Brunei Darussalam (1,826) and Philippines (862)

Malaysia Urges Implementation of Tariff Rate

BK2212120092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0850 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will continue to persuade its ASEAN neighbours to bring their respective proposed year of commencement sooner for the rollback of tariffs under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff [CEPT].

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz told a press conference here today that the target year for inclusion of all eligible items and tariff levels to be attained under the CEPT had been agreed upon.

Under the CEPT scheme which provides for the fast track and normal track mechanisms, the effective ASEAN tariff rate will be reduced to a range of zero to five percent within a time frame of 15 years for all manufactured and processed agriculture products.

Malaysia and Singapore alone will kick off the tariff rollbacks immediately in 1993 while Brunei Darussalam will only start reducing import duties in 1994, and Philippines in 1996.

Indonesia and Thailand will commence the fast track or accelerated tariff reduction programme in 1995 and the normal track in 1998.

"The best thing our ASEAN neighbours (except for Singapore) can do is to bring down the import duties faster," she said when asked if Malaysia's generous offer and speedy tariff cuts would affect its industries.

She stressed that the Malaysian industrial sector would not have to face competition such as dumping by other ASEAN countries owing to the lower tariffs here.

The ASEAN neighbours have been asked to level off tariffs with Malaysia so that the AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area] could truly boast of liberalised trade, she added.

However, she pointed out that Malaysia did not believe in protecting its tariff levels "unduly".

Researchers, NGO's on Asian Rice Farming

BK1912145092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Dec 92 p A6

[Article by Ann Danaiya Usher: "Two Worldviews of Rice Farming"]

[Text] "This dialogue is overdue ... We've talked in isolation about each other for too long," announced Klaus Lampe to a historic gathering of individuals who, only a year ago could not have imagined engaging in this kind of frank face-to-face discussion.

Lampe is the current head of the International Rice Research Institute [IRRI], the agency created in the late 1950s, which has literally revolutionized agriculture throughout Asia. Its mandate, popularly called the Green Revolution, was to avert starvation by boosting the yields of rice plants.

By the 1970s, however, there were signs that the heavy chemical inputs and large scale single-cropping that accompanied IRRI's high-yield varieties were polluting soils and water, as well as destroying the rice genetic diversity on which all agriculture ulitimately depends.

The stakes could not be higher. Though the international trade of rice may grab more headlines than rice genetic diversity, in fact only four per cent of all cultivated rice enters world trade. Some 1.1 billion people, mostly in Asia, depend directly on rice farming for subsistence. The loss of diversity—crucial for breeding rice plants with resistance against pests and disease—could affect the food security of a substantial portion of humanity.

In Thailand, where 40 years ago farmers cultivated several thousand kinds of rice, natural agriculture advocate Decha Siriphatra says the bulk of this priceless wealth has already disappeared from the fields. He points out that as late as 1981, local varieties of rice were still being planted on 45 per cent of the country's rice growing areas. This rapidly dropped to 20 per cent in 1986. He estimates that by 1991 only two to five per cent of cultivated rice lands were planted with folk varieties.

For nine years Decha has been collecting seeds and encouraging Thai farmers to abandon intensive monocculture in the IRRI-mode, in favour of diverse cropping methods. "We must have diverse approaches to conservation. You cannot depend exclusively only on freezing in genebanks because this only benefits the commercial breeders, the companies. The seeds must be used by farmers.... If you are wrong, we lose everything. And it's just too precious to take the risk," he said to Lampe.

Lampe stands by IRRI's basic assumptions that yields must continue to increase and farming methods intensify to feed the world's growing population and insists that many of the failures of the Green Revolution stemmed from misuse (or overuse) of chemicals. But he agrees that the top-down nature of research excluded the very people research was supposed to help—the fammers.

It was "terrible arrogance to believe that a few hundred scientists could provide the technology to feed one billion people.... The farmer remains a researcher on his own land," he said.

Yet NGO [nongovernmental organization workers] like Decha admits [as published] that given the dramatic depletion of rice plant diversity from farmers' fields, restoring folk varieties to the communities that originally bred them will be impossible without the benefit of

IRRI's seed collections. For his part, the chief of IRRI acknowledges that institutes like his cannot afford not to work with NGOs: "In our labs, we don't have the same contact with our ultimate client group, the farmers, as you have. We strongly depend on close collaboration with NGOs," he said.

Lampe and Decha were speaking at a recent gathering entitled "Rice, Food Security, and the Ecology" in Chiang Mai, organized by the Southeast Asia Regional Institute for Community Education and the Uppsala-based Dag Hammarskjold Foundation. The intensive three-day meeting was unique because it was the first of its kind to bring together IRRI officials and their harshest NGO critics from around the world, as well as govemment agricultural officials from the Southeast Asian region.

It marked the culmination of many ears of debates in books and journals and international conferences during vhich the IRRI has gradually come round to accept some key aspects of the NGOs' critique.

IRRI plant breeders changed the way Asia's farmers cultivate rice by fundamentally altering rice plants. They did so by combining genetic material from farmers' varieties that contained "dwarfing" genes to encourage a shift of biomass from stems and leaves into the rice grain—thereby creating shorter, higher-yielding plants.

Citing an economist named Evanson at the University of Michigan, Lampe claims that 600 million people, who might otherwise have starved without the Green Revolution, are today cultivating and eating IRRI high-yielding rice varieties. But the warnings of NGOs over the last decades, that intensive chemical use would lead to an initial burst of productivity followed by declining yields, appear to have been confirmed even in IRRI's own experimental fields.

There, scientists have been growing rice on experimental plots for 26 years, harvesting three crops per year. Lampe says that over the last few years they have observed "stagnation and decline" in yields. "For the same amount of fertilizer, you get only 70 to 80 per cent of what you did 10 years ago. Therefore you need to increase the amount of fertilizer," he said. "We still don't understand the causes of this decline."

Lampe hypothesizes that this may be due either to the fact that singlecropping affects the quality of organic matter in the soil or that nematodes (micro worms) are affecting the nutrient uptake system of the plants.

Quite apart from declining yields, the rapid spread of IRRI varieties has physically replaced local rice.

The trend, documented by Decha, that mono-culture fields of high yielding plant replaced local Thai rice variety, has occurred across the region. During the past 50 years, for example, farmers in India may have grown over 30,000 varieties of rice. But by one account, with the spread of new varieties in the last 20 years, just ten varieties now cover up to 75 per cent of total rice cultivation area in the country.

In some countries, governments used violence to force farmers to cultivate high-yield varieties instead of local strains. In Thailand, however, Ministry of Agriculture extension workers, operating from multiplication centres throughout the country, exchanged "new" rice for the farmers' "old."

"Farmers gave away their seeds believing that what they were receiving would be better. It is such a tragedy because they did not keep their seeds. But they did not just lose the genetic resource, they also lost the knowledge and a culture that was based on these seeds," said Decha.

The institute's response to such trends has been to collect whatever they could find and store the seeds of farmers' rice varieties in refrigerated units known commonly as genebanks. Today IRRI's genebank holds the world's largest single collection of rice genetical material, with over 80,000 accessions (or samples) that represent at least half as many unique varieties.

These are stored in hermetically sealed vaults at minus 18 degrees celsius with four to six per cent moisture content, and are periodically grown out in IRRI fields to obtain new seed. The system is expensive, time-consuming, highly-centralized and potentially vulnerable. In addition to the obvious dangers of a power shortage, fire or natural disaster that could destroy the collection, there is arguably the more real risk of a lack of funds.

The spread of mono-culture, and the concomitant proliferation of pests, has heightened the need to preserve the genetic diversity both in institutional genebanks and in fields. NGOs have called for a radical decentralization in conservation efforts, where farmers would once again become custodians of their own seeds.

There exists a surprising level of agreement between the IRRI and NGOs on two basic issues. The first is the question of ownership and possible patenting of the varieties stored in the IRRI genebank. On this point, Lampe is firmly against—arguing that the rice seed collection was donated freely by farmers and is held in trust as a human heritage. Any private ownership or patents could result ultimately in monopoly over food crops by multinational corporations, with unimaginably deleterious effects on overall food security, he said.

The second issue of basic agreement is the impact of agro-chemicals on agriculture. Much of the natural resistance to disease has been lost with the creation of pure line varieties. Where folk varieties once relied on mixed cropping systems and their own natural defences, the new IRRI plants depend on chemical pesticides and herbicides to protect them against pests.

It is impossible to predict which obscure variety may contain the genes that might resist a future virulent infestation. This is part of the reason that the whole vast range of rice varieties must be protected.

In the past, Lampe admits that the IRRI may have advocated "preventive use" of chemical pesticides. "That was not justified—economically, socially, ecologically or otherwise. (This) killed a lot of friendly insects and we were breaking the food chain," he said.

"Today we must convince fammers that 'less is more,'" he said, though acknowledging that there are "people who make their living from convincing farmers to use more chemicals." Instead, IRRI has adopted "Integrated Pest Management" as a basic philosophy, where chemical use has shifted from the mainstay to a "last priority."

Lampe and Decha concur that overuse of agro-chemicals is in large part to blame for the catastrophic effects of Thailand's recent brownhopper infestation.

"In 1990 the brownhopper plague became one of the biggest infestations in the world, destroying at least two million tonnes of rice. All those chemicals still couldn't control these insects," said Decha.

Lampe calls the central plains of Thailand, where rice is grown intensively as mono-culture, "an ideal field for pests. If you are disturbing friendly insects that could be a calamity. The brownhopper infestation is an example of this: It's the result of mono-culture and heavy use of pesticides. We have to find alternatives."

Decha says Thai farmers—like the renowned Wibun Khemchaloem who spoke at last month's Alternative Agriculture Conference in Bangkok—have alternatives: "No chemicals. And it works," he said. "But only farmers and NGOs believe that it works because nobody makes money, especially not the chemical companies."

On this point, Lampe is in adamant disagreement. "I'm not agitating against the chemical industry. The IRRI has proven that you can make do with less chemicals, but at a time when the world population is growing and arable land is shrinking, no one can tell a farmer to stop using pesticides completely, in good faith. If you're wrong the farmer risks starvation. The point is to use (agro-chemicals) wisely," he said.

The IRRI and critics such as Decha appear to share common concerns about chemical use and the need for broader conservation strategies. There remain, however, some basic issues of contention.

What is the ultimate goal of agriculture? What is the future of the agricultural sector—and of fammers—in an increasingly urban, industrialized world?

Lampe's position is clear. The objectives of agricultural research in Asia, he says, are to increase rural income in order to stop people from moving to the cities, and to increase labour efficiency in the countryside to make food affordable for the urban poor. People have to get out of the agricultural sector and into the industrial sector, which in turn must shift to rural areas.

"The problem is that there are too many people in agriculture. Through mechanization, the industrial sector can pay more for labour," Lampe said, as in South Korea or Taiwan or Germany.

It is this sort of approach that has alienated rural-based NGOs from the institute in the past. "Farmers don't just look at the grain as a cash crop, the way the researcher does. Rice is the basis of a whole culture, a way of life," said Decha. "The IRRI says it is trying to reduce the number of farmers and bring industry into the rural areas. This means you don't want fammers, so how can you say you are working for farmers?"

Aside from their basic political differences, Decha asks how Lampe's vision of ever-increasingly intensive agriculture can coincide with the conservation of genetic diversity—the one goal that no participant in this debate would question.

"The farming community and genetic diversity are interdependent. If only three per cent of the population are farmers, as in Gemmany, who will protect diversity? When you lose the farmers, you lose the seeds. Even in Gemmany, organic farmers can only use high-yield varieties because the traditional varieties have all been lost," Decha noted.

Lampe suggests that hope may lie with a super 15-tonne per hectare yielding plant, currently being developed at the IRRI using techniques of bio-technology: "We need biotech to get not only the fertilizer factory into the plant, but also the pesticide factory.... Yes, there will be resistance (from pests), but we will continue to do research.

"We agree that if the Green Revolution was used wrongly, people have suffered. But we disagree if you advocate labour-intensive agriculture. This is advocating poverty. We have to reduce the number of farmers in order to increase income.... Farmers have to be part-time. Farm size must become bigger. This means erosion, not only of genetic material, but also of human value systems."

Giving as an example hill people in northern Thailand, Lampe added: "In 100 years, these cultures are vanishing. This is cultural erosion. I am as helpless as you."

16 Dec Mekong Committee Meeting Reported

BK2012150892 Hanoi VNA in English
1355 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 20—Representatives of four countries in the Lower Basin of the Mekong River held a consultative meeting in Kuala Lumpur on December 16 with the participation of the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Cambodian delegation was led by Mr. Ingkaeth, advisor of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative

Cambodia] leadership, the Lao delegation by Kithong Vongsay, vice minister of commerce and chairman of the Lao Mekong Committee, the Thai delegation by Mr. Birat Israxena, director general of international organizations of Foreign Ministry and the Vietnamese delegation by Phan Si Ky, vice minister of water resources and vice president of the Mekong Committee of Vietnam. Mr. K.J. Singh, assistant to the director of the Mekong Committee for Asian and Pacific region representing UNDP, was on hand.

The four delegations signed a memorandum of understanding on the communique of the meeting. The participants affirmed the equal right of the four countries in the lower basin of the Mekong in the Secretariat of the Mekong Committee. They agreed to hold an official ceremony to sign the communique and the guidelines for the working group at the first meeting of the working group in Hanoi in January 1993 with the participation of UNDP representatives.

After adopting the working programme of the Mekong Committee for 1993 on December 17 and 18 the representatives of the four countries and the funding parties (17 countries, EC, World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and Environment Programme of the United Nations) reviewed the national Mekong projects and the project for the whole Mekong Basin in 1992 and discussed the funding sources in 1993.

Mekong Organization Discusses Aid for Members

BK3012093192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] According to a report from the Lao National Mekong Committee, the four member countries of the Mekong River Organization namely Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia held a meeting in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 18 December. Attending the meeting were representatives from international organizations and countries which have been supporting the development of water sources in the upper basin of the Mekong River. The meeting, chaired by (Jim), deputy director general of the UNDP [UN Development Program], was aimed at finding solutions acceptable to all sides to the problems unsolved since early 1972.

During the meeting, the four member countries in cooperation with UNDP specialists, drafted an agreement and adopted the Operation Plan for 1993.

The delegations of Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia signed the memorandum on the improvement of the structure of the Mekong Organization. A working team will be set up to coordinate cooperation in the Mekong basin area [words indistinct]. The delgations will submit the memorandum to their respective governments for final approval before it becomes effective. The four member countries will officially sign the document in Hanoi in early February 1993.

The four countries have been working together on the remaining problems in the past several months and agreed to improve the efficiency of the Mekong Organization to satisfy the international organizations and countries concerned. The delegations also pledged their cooperation in implementing development projects as stipulated in the Mekong Organization's Operation Plan for 1993. The action plan includes 116 projects, 60 of which involve the common interests of the four member countries. Fifteen projects worth some $112 million benefit Laos especially. For the first time, Denmark and Austria declared they will assist the implementation of a number of projects mostly pertaining to Cambodia. Denmark will soon send its specialists to Laos to gather more information for the implementation of the Operation Plan for 1993, which includes the improvement of navigation along the Mekong River from Luang Prabang, Vientiane, to Savannakhet. Technical assistance from Denmark will also cover the construction of a shipyard at Kilometer Post 4 in Vientiane and the project for the improvement of the navigation school in Vientiane.

The EC delegation informed the meeting that a number of technicians will be soon dispatched to Vientiane to gather information on the construction of better drainage system for the prevention of flood from Kao Leo to Sithan Tai areas in Vientiane. This special meeting of the Mekong Organization registered brilliant success.

Japan

Quick Ratification of START II Urged

OW3112052092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0459 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe called Thursday for the latest nuclear arms reduction pact between the United States and Russia to be quickly ratified and implemented.

Watanabe said in a statement the second Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START II) Treaty, like its predecessor, will contribute to improving international security.

U.S. President George Bush and Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin will meet at the Black Sea resort of Sochi on January 2-3 to sign the treaty.

Uruguay Round Conclusion by Mar Doubted

OW2912082792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0724 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 29 KYODO—Japanese sources expressed doubts Tuesday over whether member nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be able to wrap up the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks before March.

The negotiations, involving Japan, the United States, the European Community (EC), and other member nations, are scheduled to resume in Geneva on January 4.

The sources said the negotiators are unlikely to conclude the talks before January 20, when the new U.S. Administration of President-elect Bill Clinton is scheduled to be inaugurated, or even before early March, when the U.S. Congress is expected to start "fast track" proceedings on a package of trade agreements.

The U.S. and EC have agreed to wrap up the talks by mid-January.

The sources noted that differences among GATT member nations have widened over various issues, including services, antidumping duties, and the proposed establishment of a multilateral trade organization (MTO).

The negotiations are expected to focus on these issues:

—Services: GATT requires each member nation to provide a most-favored-nation (MFN) status to other countries regarding services, but a number of countries are seeking an exemption to this requirement.

Japan, among others, is seeking an exemption to the opening of its legal market, citing the principle of reciprocity that would require it to accept foreign lawyers only from countries which accept Japanese lawyers. The United States and the European Community (EC) are urging Japan to open its legal market to foreign lawyers.

—Antidumping, MTO: The U.S. has raised objections to GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel's proposals on antidumping duties and MTO, made in his draft final paper for liberalizing world trade.

The proposals call for a review of antidumping duties five years after their imposition and their abolishment if no new evidence of dumping is found, and for the establishment of an MTO, which would have stronger power than GATT in supervising member nations' trade policies.

—Agriculture: The U.S.-EC accord on agriculture, announced in late November, appeared to have removed a major obstacle to the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, but a number of differences have emerged since then.

The EC, for example, is proposing high tariff rates for its farm produce to protect its farmers, but the U.S. has opposed the proposal, saying protection should be reduced.

Working-level negotiations to iron out the differences have met serious difficulties, the Japanese sources said.

Japan, meanwhile, continues to resist the proposed conversion of nontariff barriers for farm produce into tariffs that would eventually lead to the opening of its rice market.

The sources said Japan will face intense pressure to accept the tariffication proposal as the Uruguay Round moves toward a conclusion.

Possible Rice Market Opening Relief Viewed

OW3012075392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0739 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—The government has launched a study on relief measures for rice farmers ahead of a decision on whether to open the rice market under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, sources said Wednesday.

The negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are scheduled to be resumed in Geneva next Monday [4 January] with discussions focused on a proposal to replace farm trade barriers with tariffs.

The sources said the government study also includes measures for rice growers abandoning farming and for the restructuring of agriculture to boost its competitiveness.

According to the government's agricultural census, there are about 2.6 million rice farming households, with the value of their output amounting to 2.9 trillion yen.

The government set aside a total of 51.7 billion yen in fiscal 1988 and 1989 as appropriations to subsidize dairy farmers ahead of beef import liberalization, which took effect April 1, 1991.

The sources said the government's subsidies to rice farmers, including compensation for revenue losses resulting from the opening of the rice market and for those abandoning farming, would far exceed 1 trillion yen.

The number of rice farming households is 12.3 times that of dairy farming households and the value of their output is five times greater, the sources said.

The government paid 300,000 yen per square kilometer in compensation for citrus growers when orange imports were liberalized.

If the figure is used as the basis for calculation and the ceiling of rice imports is set at 1 million tons a year, the total amount of compensation for rice growers is estimated at 600 billion yen, a sum which could not be accepted by the Finance Ministry under present government finances, the sources said.

'Majority' Opinion on U.S. Military Presence

OW2812093792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0910 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—A majority of Japanese do not feel responsible for providing military assistance to trouble spots overseas but most Americans think they should, according to a survey released Monday by Tokyo broadcasting system, a leading commercial TV station.

Three out of four Japanese also want the number of U.S. troops stationed in Japan to either be decreased or withdrawn altogether, the poll showed.

While 63 percent of Japanese say they are not responsible for providing military assistance overseas even at the request of allies, 69 percent of Americans believe Japan should, the survey found.

A vast majority of Japanese—72 percent—said Japan is responsible, however, for providing financial assistance to military peacekeeping efforts.

Most Japanese want U.S. troops in Japan either decreased (47 percent) or completely withdrawn (26 percent), while more Americans think the military presence should stay at the same level or be increased (45 percent), rather than be decreased or withdrawn (39 percent.)

The survey, conducted in early December jointly with CBS News and the NEW YORK TIMES, showed Americans are more confident in their relations with Japan than a year ago, though they still rate the economy as worse off than Japan's.

The Nippon Research Center, the Japan agent of U.S. Gallup, interviewed 1,357 Japanese adults aged 18 and over from December 3- 9. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.6 percent.

In the United States, 1,333 adults were interviewed by telephone on December 7-9.

The poll also showed that younger Japanese and Americans, in particular, feel their counterparts look down on them.

Eighty percent of Japanese aged 18-29 thought Americans feel contempt for them and 60 percent of Americans in the same age group said Japanese do not respect them.

While 58 percent of all Japanese said they think most of their fellow citizens respect Americans, only 40 percent of Americans said they think the Japanese are respected.

Overall, 77 percent of Americans and 53 percent of Japanese felt bilateral relations are friendly.

Some 45 percent of Americans said the United States will be the No. 1 economic power in the 21st century, compared with 30 percent for Japan.

In 1991 half of Americans thought Japan would be in the lead in the next century with only 32 percent saying the U.S. would be the stronger economy.

In general, Japanese were more pessimistic on the economic future of both countries, however, more thought Japan would emerge in the next century as the largest economic power (44 percent) than the U.S.(36 percent.)

More Americans thought the U.S. blames Japan for its own economic problems (49 percent) than thought Japan competes unfairly (40 percent.)

But 44 percent said trade with Japan is bad for the economy, while 42 percent said it was good.

Half of Americans said they expect the U.S. economy will improve with Bill Clinton as president and most predicted under Clinton relations with Japan would be better (23 percent) or about the same (56 percent).

Only 7 percent of Japanese thought bilateral ties would improve under Clinton, while 22 percent thought they would worsen and 69 percent said they would remain the same.

Communications Study To Be Proposed to U.S.

OW3112082892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0754 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry will propose a joint study with the United States on the enhanced use of telecommunications as one way to protect the earth's environment, ministry officials said Thursday.

The proposal will be presented to President-elect Bill Clinton's administration after Clinton takes office in mid-January, the officials told KYODO News Service.

The Postal Ministry has been pressing for greater use of telecommunications networks to save the energy consumed by transport vehicles such as automobiles in spheres in which telecommunications can substitute as a tool to relay information.

Among other things, the proposal is aimed at reducing harmful carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by automobiles as both Tokyo and Washington prepare to legislate CO2 emission controls, the officials said.

They said Japan and the United States could work together on research and development of advanced telecommunications systems to promote what they call an "environmental telecommunications policy."

The concept is that the increased use of telecommunications in such forms as teleconferencing could reduce the use of automobiles.

According to a two-year U.S. study, telecommuting or working at home using personal computers and other telecommunications equipment has reduced car commuting by some 30 percent.

The Postal Ministry, for its part, forecast that CO2 emissions could be reduced by 600,000 tons a year or roughly 0.2 percent of Japan's total CO2 emissions if teleconferencing was extended to some 5,000 companies over the next decade.

Japan is among the world leaders in terms of CO2 emissions and has committed itself to stabilizing such emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000.

Imported Japanese Car Sales Draw Criticism

OW3012093092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Japanese cars produced overseas and imported to Japan have made a hit this year, boosting their share on the imported car market to a double-digit figure for the first time, industry sources reported Wednesday.

The market share of such cars, mostly wagon-type vehicles, is estimated at around 13 percent this year, up from 9.0 percent last year, the sources said.

Among the best-selling models is the Accord wagon of Honda Motor Co., with sales amounting to about 15,000 units this year, accounting for more than 10 percent of the total imported car sales, the sources said.

Such "reverse export" cars are contributing to reducing Japan's swelling merchandise trade surplus.

Their popularity, however, has drawn criticism from U.S. and European automakers, whose sales this year declined 8.7 percent from the year before to about 180,000 units, marking the second straight year-on-year fall.

Encouraged by the growing popularity of imported Japanese cars, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said it plans to market a wagon it developed in Australia around summer next year.

Nissan Motor Co. said it plans to import a van it produces in Mexico next fall.

Ship Fired on by Boat Flying PRC Flag

OW3112133892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Kagoshima, Dec. 31 KYODO—A Panamanian cargo ship has had warning shots fired at it by an unidentified vessel in the East China Sea, Japanese maritime authorities said Thursday.

Officials of the 10th Regional Maritime Safety Headquarters said the unidentified boat approached the 4,400-ton cargo ship Harimatun, firing sporadic warning shots, about 340 kilometers west of Yaku Island in Kagoshima Prefecture at about 7:15 P.M. Wednesday [30 December].

However, the boat fled the scene after the Panamanian ship changed its course, the officials said.

None of the 18 crew members of the Harimatun—all Filipinos—were reported injured.

With many Japanese fishing boats operating in the sea area, the Maritime Safety Agency is warning them by wireless against possible attacks, agency officials said.

According to a report from crew members of the Harimatun, the unidentified boat of about 100 tons fired warning shots four times as its searchlight flashed over the Panamanian ship.

About eight men in what looked like military uniforms were reportedly aboard the boat which flew a Chinese flag.

The Harimatun is scheduled to arrive in Hamada port in Shimane Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast at 4 P.M. Friday, the agency officials said.

Investigators of the local maritime office will question the crew members of the ship about the incident, they said.

'Comfort Women' Issue Investigation Continues

OW2912140492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] The government is continuing its investigation into the issue of foreign women who were forced to work as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during World War II. It is expected to release its conclusions in early January.

The government is currently awaiting the inauguration of the new ROK Government in hopes of starting full-fledged negotiations over alternative measures in place of compensation payment for these women.

Last July the government released the results of its investigation into the issue, admitting that the former Imperial Japanese Army had been involved in organizing the prostitution. Concerning the issue of Korean comfort women, the government has continued deliberations to decide on alternate measures in place of compensation payments before the end of the year. Because there were strong protests that sufficient investigation had not been conducted to clarify the matter, the government, then, continued with further investigation into the issue. The results of this investigation are to be released as early as the beginning of the new year.

However, during the additional investigation, records of war-criminal trials shedding light on the issue of Dutch comfort women were discovered at the Ministry of Justice. In addition, 16 related documents were recently discovered at the Defense Agency, and two more documents at the Foreign Ministry. But so far, it is reported that no evidence to prove that these women were taken away by force has been discovered, nor any information to confirm the total number of such women.

Meanwhile, the government has been considering what to do about the Korean comfort women, as the ROK Government has been demanding alternate measures in place of compensations. Reportedly, the government is examining the possibility of creating a fund through the Red Cross to support the women involved. And it is now planning to await the inauguration of the Kim Yong-Sam administration to begin full-fledged talks and reach a final decision on the issue.

Mitsuzuka Wants SDF Constitutional Change

*OW2812125892 Tokyo KYODO in English
1240 GMT 28 Dec 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The policy chief of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Monday proposed changing Japan's war-renouncing Constitution to allow Japan to participate in multinational forces authorized by the United Nations.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP's policy-making Policy Affairs Research Council, made the remarks in a television program videotaped Monday.

Renewing a call to set up a parliamentary body to discuss constitutional issues, Mitsuzuka proposed adding a clause to Article 9 of the Constitution to allow Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to take part in multinational forces. Article 9 bans the use of force to settle international disputes.

"The dispatch (of SDF troops) for a peaceful cause does not constitute war. It is okay if the article has an additional clause noting 'this is not the case if implemented through U.N. resolutions," ' he said.

Mitsuzuka's remarks appeared to reflect his desire to remove constitutional constraints on the dispatch of SDF personnel abroad, a topic that provoked a national debate earlier this year when the Diet passed a bill authorizing Japanese troops to participate in U.N. Peacekeeping activities overseas.

Last Friday, he revealed a plan to set up an interparty council in the Diet to study the Constitution from the preamble to the last article and to deepen understanding of possible areas needing revision.

He said he hopes to "carefully review the Constitution as a whole" and talk over in depth articles over which the LDP and the opposition camp are divided, in the new council, which will have representatives of the various political parties.

To study the possibility of having what he deems important included in the Constitution, the LDP's policy chief also spoke of the need to review all the articles of the Constitution.

He mentioned the Constitution's lack of provisions on environmental and nuclear arms abolition issues, and proposed including a clause that would require popular elections to select a prime minister.

Mitsuzuka also said he hopes to see the Japanese people decide through referendums issues that chart Japan's future course.

Yamahana Opposed as SDP Chief Candidate

*OW2912113392 Tokyo KYODO in English
1110 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 29 KYODO—The leader of Japan's largest labor organization and a group of junior Diet members of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) agreed Tuesday to oppose moves among party seniors and faction leaders to endorse Sadao Yamahana as the sole candidate for party leader, officials said.

Members of the policy study group Sirius met with Akira Yamagishi, head of the 7.6 million-strong Japanese Trade Union Confederation (RENGO), and reached the agreement. Rengo provides the main base of support for the SDP.

Yamagishi and Sirius members agreed to nominate another candidate for the leadership election, the officials said. But they failed to agree on who would be the candidate.

Sirius will meet January 4 to decide on the candidate.

The 29-member Sirius group includes 23 younger Diet members of the No. 1 opposition party and is headed by Satsuki Eda, leader of a minor opposition party, the United Social Democratic Party (USDP). The other

Sirius members are members of the USDP and Rengo Sangiin, a minor party in the House of Councillors and an affiliate of Rengo.

Yamahana, the 56-year-old secretary general of the SDP, is emerging as possible successor to Makoto Tanabe as chairman of the party's Central Executive Committee. Tanabe abruptly announced last week he is resigning as party leader.

Yamagishi told Sirius members the SDP will not be open to the public if it picks a single candidate through backstage negotiations among party seniors and faction leaders.

He urged the younger SDP members to field their own candidate in the election. "You should fight (for the party leadership) by backing a person who is appropriate in carrying out reforms," he was quoted as saying.

Yamagishi expressed doubt that Yamahana is a reformist, saying he and Tanabe are "one in body and mind."

According to the party's election schedule, candidacies will be accepted on January 6.

If there is only one candidate, he or she will automatically become leader without a vote being taken.

An estimated 130,000 full and associate party members across the country will cast ballots on January 15 and 16 if there are two or more candidates. Vote counting is planned for the following day.

Yamahana has indicated he will run for the party chairmanship.

Tanabe, Union Agree on Drastic Party Reform

*OW2912145192 Tokyo KYODO in English
1416 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Dec. 29 KYODO—The outgoing leader of the Social Democratic Party and five labor union leaders agreed Tuesday to drastically reform the main opposition party to enable it to take power from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), party officials said.

After a meeting at a Tokyo hotel, SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe and the leaders of the five major trade unions said they will make every effort to implement reforms without worrying about the dissolution of the party, the officials said.

Among the union leaders at the meeting were Akira Yamagishi, head of Rengo, Japan's largest trade union organization, and Etsuya Washio, president of the Japanese Federation of Iron and Steel Workers' Unions. Labor unions are the SDP's base of support.

Tanabe and the union leaders agreed that the next six months, which precede a metropolitan assembly election, are crucial in whether the party reforms succeed, the officials said.

Earlier in the day, Yamagishi met a group of junior SDP Diet members and agreed with them to oppose moves among party seniors and faction leaders to endorse Sadao Yamahana, the incumbent party secretary general, as the sole candidate for SDP chairman, the officials said. [passage omitted]

Agency Questions Abe on Tax Evasion

*OW2912131392 Tokyo KYODO in English
1250 GMT 29 Dec 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 29 KYODO—Tax investigators have questioned former cabinet minister Fumio Abe on suspicion of failing to declare income correctly because of funds he reportedly received from the now-bankrupt steel-frame maker Kyowa, investigative sources said Tuesday.

Abe, 70, former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, is now under trial on charges of receiving 90 million yen in bribes in 1989 and 1990 in exchange for giving Kyowa Co. Confidential information on the projected route of a highway in the southern part of Hokkaido.

In a recent interview with KYODO News Service, Abe denied being questioned by tax investigators, however.

In an arraignment earlier this year, prosecutors alleged that Abe received from Kyowa 530 million yen, including the 90 million yen in bribes. At a court hearing in June, Abe pleaded not guilty of bribery charges and said the money was a political donation.

The political funds control law requires that politicians report donations of more than 1 million yen and the identity of the donors to the Home Affairs Ministry.

The National Tax Administration Agency suspects Abe spent the funds for personal uses, such as to refurbish a condominium he bought in the name of his wife.

The agency plans to slap a punitive tax on the funds early next year, the sources said.

The amount of income taxes paid by Abe in 1989 and 1990—the years when he allegedly accepted the 90 million yen—was less than 10 million yen.

In his 1989 and 1990 reports to the Home Affairs Ministry, Abe failed to report what he called political donations in his testimony to the tax investigators, the sources said.

"If the tax office should find something wrong, it would impose an (additional) tax. Then I would pay," Abe told KYODO.

"I did not spend a single yen for my own purposes...I have not opened envelopes wrapping money I received from Kyowa even a single time, as I used to hand over such envelopes immediately to my secretary," Abe said.

Prosecutors Not To Charge Sagawa Politicians

OW3112080892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—Tokyo prosecutors have given up the idea of charging two politicians suspected of having illegally received money from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., effectively bringing to an end their more than yearlong investigation into a money scandal centering on the trucking firm, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

The Tokyo district prosecutors office has been conducting investigations on the two dietmen, one from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the other from an opposition party, for their suspected receipt of bribes from the company.

The LDP member, who is an expert on transport policies, once worked as an executive of a firm affiliated to the Sagawa Kyubin Group, of which Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin was a member, and received 100 million yen in loans from a financial institution using deposits of another group subsidiary as collateral, the mass-circulation daily said.

The other dietman, who left the opposition party and is now independent, had a meal with Hiroyasu Watanabe, the former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin and a key figure in the scandal, and borrowed 5 million yen from a company affiliated to the group, the YOMIURI said.

He, too, is well-versed in public transportation policy.

The prosecutors, however, could not determine whether the two had received money from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin in return for favors, the YOMIURI said.

In the only successful prosecution in the scandal so far, former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru was fined 200,000 yen on summary indictment in late September for violating the Political Funds Control Law, after admitting the receipt of a 500 million yen illegal donation from Watanabe.

One related case, against a former governor of Niigata Prefecture, is still under trial.

Finance Ministry Punishes Securities Firm

OW2812084792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The Finance Ministry said Monday it has imposed punitive action on Cosmo Securities Co., a medium-ranking brokerage house, for improper deals.

The ministry said the action includes an eight-day suspension of business by the company's two divisions dealing with corporate customers in the Tokyo branch from January 11 through 18.

The company also was ordered to suspend trading in convertible bonds for its own account for four weeks from January 11 through February 5, the ministry said.

The ministry said the action was in response to a recommendation by the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission last week.

The company was blamed for making improper compensation for losses incurred by select clients in stock investment. It also was accused of employing a shady practice to conceal investment losses by transferring the losses from one company to another.

In a related development, Yasuo Bunya, chairman of the company, announced his decision to step down to take responsibility for the affair.

Ministry officials said the practice of transferring investment losses, known as "tobashi," constitutes a violation of the securities and exchange law.

The officials said an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission showed that a former executive of the company in charge of corporate customers conducted the illegal practice from August 1989 to October 1990.

The company continued such practices thereafter although it was aware that the practice is illegal, they said.

The officials said three former executives also compensated favored clients for investment losses by purchasing convertible bonds held by the customers at prices higher than their market value.

The company said Bunya's resignation as chairman will be formally approved at a board meeting scheduled for mid-January. He will serve as an adviser, it said.

Hiroshi Nakano, president of the company, had his salary cut by 10 percent, while executive directors in charge were discharged, the company said.

Money Market 1992 Shortfall Total Announced

OW3112103992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—The money market had a fund shortfall of 506.5 billion yen this year, compared with a 13,987.7 billion yen shortfall last year, the Bank of Japan said in a preliminary report Thursday.

The market saw a net inflow of 856.5 billion yen worth of bank notes, while the government posted net receipts of 1,363 billion yen from the public.

The contraction in the fund shortfall on the money market stems in large part from a slowdown in the shift of funds to postal savings accounts, central bank officials said.

For December alone, the market showed a fund shortfall of 5,437.5 billion yen, the bank said.

Plutonium-Carrying Ship Said on Schedule

OW3012121292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Japan's plutonium-carrying ship Akatsuki Maru is heading for Tokai Port in Ibaraki Prefecture on schedule Wednesday, a government source said.

On Thursday, the Akatsuki Maru will be located in the Pacific between Minami-Torishima and Iwojima, about 1,500 kilometers southeast of Tokyo, before nearing the Izu group of islands, where the ship will stay until Sunday.

The ship will then arrive at Tokai Port Tuesday [5 January] morning, probably around 7 A.M., the sources said.

After the ship arrives, 15 plutonium containers will be unloaded and transported to a complex of atomic power-related plants in Tokai, 140 kilometers northeast of Tokyo, which are run by the semigovernmental Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp.

The Akatsuki Maru left France on November 7 with a ton of plutonium destined for Japan's fast breeder reactor Monju in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, on the Sea of Japan coast.

The schedules and routes for future plutonium shipments from Europe to Japan will be kept secret to prevent hijackings at sea.

Before the voyage, many nations voiced concerns over the route since their territorial waters might [be] affected if the plutonium were to leak.

The Greenpeace environmentalist organization monitored the Akatsuki Maru for much of its route south from France via the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

The ship is known to have then sailed south of Australia and veered north to traverse the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

Kushiro Loses Spot as Leading Fishery Port

OW3012132392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Kushiro, Hokkaido Pref. Dec. 30 KYODO—Sakaiminato Port in Tottori Prefecture will replace Kushiro of Hokkaido as the nation's largest fishing port this year with a haul of about 550,000 tons, fisheries industry sources said Wednesday.

Kushiro had been the No. 1 fishing port in Japan for 13 years until 1991 but recent poor hauls of sardines will force it to step down, hauling in only about 384,000 tons this year, down from 790,000 tons in 1991, the sources said.

Hachinohe in Aomori Prefecture in northeastern Honshu will come in third place with some 370,000 tons, followed by Choshi in Chiba, Yaizu in Shizuoka and Ishinomaki in Miyagi, they said.

Kushiro was the No. 1 fishing port from 1966 to 1977, and from it registered annual hauls of more than one million tons for six years starting in 1983.

But the number of sardines caught off the eastern part of Hokkaido, which account more than 60 percent of Kushiro's total catch, started falling four years ago.

The haul of sardines is expected to decline sharply this year to 104,400 tons from 482,000 tons last year.

The fisheries industry sources said Kushiro port is unlikely to haul in large amounts of fish next year since sardines are migratory and are not likely to return to Hokkaido soon.

North Korea

Daily Assails U.S.-Japanese Nuclear 'Scheme'

SK3112103492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 31 Dec 92

["Tieup of Nuclear Fanatics"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—The Japanese Central Electric Power Research Institute and Atomic Energy Generating Co. recently have undertaken an experiment to jointly develop nuclear fuel with the U.S. Department of Energy for producing more plutonium with less fund.

Commenting on this, a MINJU CHOSON analyst today says it fully reveals the scheme of the United States and Japan to establish their nuclear monopoly and accelerate nuclear arming in collusion.

The news analyst goes on:

The U.S. and Japanese reactionaries are now stepping up the reinforcemenl of their military strength and nuclear armed forces, pursuing the "policy of strength."

The U.S. ruling quarters are staging the drama of "reducing or scrapping" some nuclear weapons which are out of use under the cloak of "disarmament," while working to develop a larger number of sophisticated nuclear weapons.

Japan, dreaming of emerging on the international scene as a political power and military power, raises it as an indispensable requisite to possess nuclear weapons in pursuance of her military domination.

Japan has established a nuclear weapons system already during the third "defense program" period (1967-71) and is stockpiling quantities of nuclear substances.

As if it were not enough, the United States and Japan are intending to produce nuclear weapons in real earnest by hastening the joint development of plutonium.

Peace and security in northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world are exposed to an ever greater threat due to their moves for nuclear monopolization and nuclear armament.

This notwithstanding, they are now raising a terrific hue and cry over "nuclear suspicion" against the DPRK and calling for an "international solution" to it. This is a complete distortion of reality and a far-fetched argument.

However desperately they may try to tarnish the image of the DPRK, a non-nuclear, peaceloving state, and justify their wicked nuclear policies by spreading the false rumor of "nuclear suspicion," they cannot attain their sinister aims.

Their nuclear ambition will only result in precipitating their own destruction.

Japanese Group Urges Normalization of Ties

SK2712002492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Delegates of the Miyagi Prefectural Liaison Council for Japan-Korea Friendship including its chairman Osamu Takahashi and social-democratic member of the House of Representatives of Japan Kikum Tato called at the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry on December 18 and handed over a letter request for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations which was addressed to the Japanese prime minister and foreign minister.

Referring to the fact that the movement for friendship between Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been intensified in Miyagi Prefecture in recent days, as could be seen in the formation of an Assemblymen's League for Japan-Korea Friendship by the Miyagi Prefectural, Sendai city and Ishimaki city assemblies, he request strongly temanded that the government pay attention to such moves in time and make energetic efforts for the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK.

Trade Union Spokesman Denounces Team Spirit

SK2712085592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—The spokesman for the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea in a statement released on December 26 vehemently denounced the anti-national, anti-peace crimes of the South Korean rulers intended to inflict the holocaust of nuclear war upon the nation, refusing dialogue with the fellow countrymen.

The South Korean authorities are trying to "justify" their decision to resume the criminal "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises, letting loose preposterous pretexts instead of apologizing for their responsibility for having blocked the 9th North-South high-level talks from opening as schedule, the statement says, and continues:

The South Korean authorities are alleging that as the joint military committee is obliged to discuss the problems of large-scale army unit movement and the control of military rehearsals in the future, it does not matter to resume the joint military exercises such as "Team Spirit" so long as the joint military committee has not yet been opened.

Now the both sides reached an annexed agreement on the specific items to remove the military confrontation and ensure the relaxation of tensions and peace, it is clear to everyone that all acts against the agreement should be stopped even before the joint military committee opens.

The South Korean authorities are insisting on their far-fetched argument that it is all right to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises which may bring the situation on the Korean peninsula to the state of a semi-war because the joint military committee has not yet started. This cannot be construed otherwise than a revelation of their scheme not to open the joint committee session nor to implement the item on nonaggression agreed upon by both sides.

The South Korean authorities must not busy themselves with justifying their unjust behaviour with a poor excuse but, belated as it is, must withdraw their decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, promptly resume dialogue between the North and the South and take the road of honestly implementing the inter-Korean agreement.

Agricultural Union Statement on Team Spirit

SK3012053392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea issued a statement to the press Tuesday denouncing the South Korean authorities for having obstructed the opening of the ninth North-South high-level talks as scheduled by refusing to withdraw the criminal step to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

The anti-dialogue and anti-peace act of the South Korean authorities who led the ninth inter-Korean high-level talks to abortion shows that although they signed the basic North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization, they, in actuality, have had no intention to implement all the agreed points and commitments from the beginning, the spokesman said.

The South Korean authorities should apologize to the nation for their betrayal and cancel the plan to resume the aggressive nuclear war rehearsal and take a decisive step to remove all obstacles from the North-South dialogue though it is late, as justly demanded by the delegation of the North side in a statement, he stressed.

Youth Group Blames South for Blocking Talks

SK2912050592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 29 Dec 92

["Spokesman for C.C. LSWYK Blames South Korean Authorities for Blocking 9th Inter-Korean High-Level Talks"—KCNA headline]

Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—With no excuse can the South Korean authorities evade their responsibility for blocking the 9th North-South high-level talks by refusing to withdraw their decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, said a spokesman for the Central Committee [C.C.] of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] in a statement on December 28.

All the Korean youths in the North and South and overseas are following with heightened vigilance the South Korean rulers' attempts to attain their sinister political and military aims by staging the aggressive and criminal nuclear war exercises against the desire of the fellow countrymen and the requirements of the times, the spokesman said, and went on:

All the Korean youth and students in the North and South and overseas will never overlook the rash war gambles of the South Korean rulers which are bringing dark clouds of another war, a nuclear war, over the inviolable motherland.

If the South Korean authorities dare resume the provocative "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises despite our repeated warnings, they will face curses and condemnation by the peoples at home and abroad and our youth and students strong in the sense of justice as the very one responsible for the increased tensions and the criminals who wrecked North-South dialogue.

U.S. Accused of 'Air Espionage' 26-28 Dec

SK3012050092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors December 28 let a "U-2" high altitude strategic reconnaissance plane fly in the sky along the military demarcation line (MDL) for air espionage on the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

Earlier, on December 26 and 27 this reconnaissance plane photographed and conducted electronic espionage on the strategic depths and the east and west coastal areas of the northern half of Korea.

On December 27 they mobilized "RV-1" and "RC-12" Army tactical reconnaissance planes for air espionage on the inland area and coastal and frontline areas of the northern half of Korea.

"U-2" high altitude strategic reconnaissance plane, "RV-1" army tactical reconnaissance plane, "E-3" airborne warning and control plane, "OA-10" observation plane and other reconnaissance planes conducted air espionage on more than 170 occasions in December.

The reconnaissance planes introduced by the U.S. imperialists for air espionage against the northern half of Korea this year total some 2,300.

Daily Denounces U.S. Aggressive Strategy

SK2912051492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 29 Dec 92

["NODONG SINMUN on Aggressive Nature of 'Team Spirit'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—The "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres are an offspring of the U.S. imperialists' aggressive Asian strategy, declares NODONG SINMUN today in an article by Dr. Pak Tong-chin.

The projected resumption of the "Team Spirit" by the United States and the South Korean authorities is a high-handed challenge to the entire Korean people and the world peaceloving people who hope for peace and peaceful reunification of Korea and a grave threat to peace of Asia and the rest of the world, the article says, and goes on:

The keypoint of the U.S. policy of attaching importance to Asia is to dominate Northeast Asia and the cardinal point here is to keep hold on South Korea, a main military strategic vantage, a colony and military base, and contain the whole of Korea and the Asian continent with South Korea as the springboard.

The U.S. imperialists have staged such test nuclear war gamble as "Team Spirit" in South Korea to ignite a global thermo-nuclear war.

In recent years they have mobilized in the joint military manoeuvres each time Armed Forces more than 200,000 strong enough to launch into a total war, or double the Armed Forces mobilized by the United States to start the past Korean war.

Though the honesty of the DPRK nuclear policy has been verified through nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers, under the pretext of "nuclear suspicion", decided to resume the "Team Spirit" which they had suspended before the beginning of inspections of the DPRK by the IAEA. This cannot be justified with anything.

The U.S. imperialists must unconditionally stop the "Team Spirit" and the South Korean authorities must choose to implement the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization.

Article Urges Efforts Against 'Imperialists'

SK2912112792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 29 Dec 92

["Aggressive Nature of Imperialists Never Changes"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—Tension is escalating in some regions and the people's cause of independence, the cause of socialism, is facing a grave challenge owing to the dominationist policy of the imperialists and the reactionary forces to block the advance of the anti-imperialist, independent forces of the world and establish a new capitalist order, declares NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today anatomizing the international situation this year.

The article says:

This year the imperialists have persistently pursued a policy going against the current of the universal situation in which international relations are heading for detente after the termination of the Cold War. They have directed the sharp edge of their attack to the socialist countries faithful to the revolutionary principles. They have employed every conceivable means to prevent the revival of socialism in those countries where it has collapsed. They have also craftily tried to keep the countries engaged in the building of a new society from advancing along the road of socialism, the road of independence. By this means, they have sought a shameless purpose to put countries and regions under their control, revive the colonial system and, further, unipolarize the world under their domination.

Such design of the imperialists for world supremacy was made plain when they said more than once that they would faithfully discharge their "responsibility and mission to lead the world", it is their "duty" and "rights" which cannot be "fulfilled or exercised" by others in their stead and the international problems can be solved satisfactorily only by their "efforts". This, in essence, means that they will zealously interfere in regional problems as the "world leader" and control the international community in their interests and for their purpose.

This year imperialists have cried for "disarmament" and "peace" more loudly than ever before. But they, in actuality, have feverishly pursued the policy of strength.

They have squandered a colossal amount of funds this year to increase the military power qualitatively and ceaselessly staged military manoeuvres to heighten tension.

The United States has intensified anti-DPRK military adventures, raising outcries over the fiction of "nuclear arms development by the DPRK", fully revealing their aggressive posture and bellicose nature.

The prevailed situation clearly shows the truth that a free, peaceful world can be built only when the imperialists' moves of aggression and war are thwarted by the unity of the anti-imperialist, independent forces of the world, stresses the article.

Daily Urges Acquittal for ROK Visitors

SK2712090892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 27 Dec 92

["Acquittal of All Visitors to North Demanded"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—Student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon were paroled and Rev. Mun Ik-hwan's term of 7 years' imprisonment was reduced to 5 years by "special pardon" upon those who visited the North, which was granted by the South Korean authorities on December 24.

This is the result of the long struggle of the Korean people in the North and the South and abroad and the world people for the release of the pro-reunification patriotic figures who visited the North, and it is belated but a good luck, NODONG SINMUN today says, and goes on:

The South Korean authorities, granting "pardon", put student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon on parole, not setting free and reduced Rev. Mun Ik-hwan's term of imprisonment, not paroling him. No step was taken for Mr. Yu Won-ho.

This measure of the South Korean authorities is very unsatisfactory and regrettable in view of the demand of the people at home and abroad for the acquittal of the pro-reunification patriotic figures who visited the North or in light of the spirit of the North-South agreement.

Visitors to the North are the envoys of reunification who visited the northern half of the country with only one desire to accelerate national reunification, praised by the whole nation.

The South Korean authorities should clear off splotches by acquitting all the visitors to the North as demanded by all fellow countrymen.

If the South Korean authorities have a real intention for reconciliation with the North, they should abolish the "National Security Law", an evil law of anti-reunification confrontation and take a step for the complete acquittal of student Yim Su-kong, Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, Father. Mun Kyu-hyon and Mr. Yu Won-ho.

And they should take a measure for sending without delay old man Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and unconverted long-term prisoner, back to the northern half of the country before the end of this year as demanded by him and his family.

Chongnyon Statement on Prisoners in South

SK2812053492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0508 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo December 26 (KNS-KCNA)—So Man-sul, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), in a statement December 26 with regard to the "amnesty" granted by South Korean authorities to some political prisoners demanded that they repeal the "National Security Law" and other fascist evil laws and unconditionally and immediately release all the political prisoners who have been illegally arrested.

Recalling that the South Korean authorities released on parole coed Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon and "reduced" the prison term of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan in an "amnesty" on December 24, he said: The South Korean authorities are now loudly advertising the "amnesty" as if it were something like favors. It is intended to embellish the "regime of the Democratic Liberal Party" framed up through the U.S.-manipulated "presidential election" and refurbish their image.

If the South Korean authorities earnestly hope for "national harmony" as they say, they must, first of all, scrap the anachronistic "National Security Law" which defines fellow countrymen as the enemy and brands all democratic and patriotic activities as "crimes", he said, adding:

The South Korean authorities should change their anti-national and anti-reunification policy of depending on outside forces into a patriotic and reunification-oriented policy of national independence, give up the criminal scheme to rasume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and unhesitatingly turn to sincerely implementing the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization.

Committees Send Letter to Student in South

SK2812081892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0513 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—The Korean Committee of Struggle for the Release of Yim Su-kyong and the Korean Students Committee sent a letter Sunday to coed Yim Su-kyong of South Korea upon her release on parole.

It is good luck that you whom all the fellow countrymen proudly called "Flower of Reunification" have come back to the bosom of your dear parents and brothers and sisters and become able to greet the New Year's Day with your intimate fellow students, though you are not yet completely free the letter says, and goes on:

The strict chastity of you who defended with fortitude the patriotic will and faith of reunification in court and prison has encouraged the students in the North and South determined to live in a reunified country and evoked admiration of the whole nation.

Now the youth and students in the North, South and abroad have formed the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomhonghangnyon) to wage a more powerful movement for national reunification. The entire fellow countrymen will remember that this is in part thanks to the devoted efforts of young coed Yim Su-kyong.

We believe that you will in the future, too, dauntlessly take the patriotic road of reunification together with brethren, youth and students in the northern half of the country.

Catholic Group Sends Letter to Mun Kyu-hyon

SK2812082592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0517 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association sent a letter Sunday to Father Mun Kyu-hyon of South Korea who was put on parole.

It is a good luck that Father Mun Kyu-hyon was put on parole though he has not been completely set free, the letter says, and notes:

As you Father Mun Kyu-hyon are convinced of the validity of your faith and will, you could lift voices of concience in protest against appeasement and intimidation of a band of "Satan" at courts and in prison and display your proud stamina with the conviction that you will stand in a sunlit world without fail.

We express sincere respects to you Father Mun Kyu-hyon, highly estimating your fight not departing from your will and faith of reunification and patriotism as a brave son of the nation and a true Roman Catholic believer.

The Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association firmly believes that you Father Mun Kyu-hyon will in the future, too, unyieldingly fight on the road of patriotism for national reunification according to a doctrine of Roman Catholism on choosing and following a correct road.

Daily Marks 20th Anniversary of Constitution

SK2712091492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0841 GMT 27 Dec 92

["NODONG SINMUN Calls For Strictly Observing Socialist Constitution to Glorify Our Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—To strictly observe the Socialist Constitution and other laws and rules of the state is a very important work at present to bring the advantages of our socialism into full play in all fields of politics, the economy and culture, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper in an editorial dedicated to the 20th anniversary of day of the socialist constitution says:

To observe our revolutionary laws including the socialist constitution is an important demand to smash the anti-socialist campaign of the imperialists and resolutely defend our state and social system.

The imperialists are intensifying the counter-revolutionary offensive against the DPRK which is advancing under the uplifted banner of socialism.

They are viciously slandering our state and social system and arguing that we do not "open the doors."

Lurking behind the demand of some countries for our "opening" is a sinister aim to block the DPRK politically, economically and diplomatically, continue putting pressure on it and frustrate our socialist cause.

The Socialist Constitution includes all matters to develop international relations, including the opening.

In actuality, the DPRK has not kept nor will keep its doors closed to anyone.

We must deeply understand the revolutionary essence and advantages of the socialist constitution and its great innovative role and bear in mind the pride and honour of making revolution with a most excellent constitution.

In order to strictly observe the socialist constitution and other laws and rules of the state, it is very important to firmly establish a revolutionary habit of law observance in all fields and increase the function and role of the people's power bodies at all levels.

The people's power bodies at all levels must smash in time the moves of the imperialists and the class enemies for obstructing the revolution and construction and destroying the socialist system and prevent anti-socialist elements from infiltrating into our society.

The most important thing in strictly observing the socialist construction and other laws and rules is for the entire people to harden their firm faith in socialism.

Article Praises Korean-Style Socialism

SK2812051592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 28 Dec 92

["NODONG SINMUN on Advantages of Korean-Style Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—An important advantage of the socialism of our own style is that human dignity and personality are respected in every way, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article Sunday.

In Korea people are held dearest, and every conceivable loving care and solicitude, all social conditions are provided for them, it says, and goes on:

Our socialism substantively ensures freedom and rights of the people in the political, economic and cultural life. In our country all the working people are participating in the exercise of sovereignty and state administration as masters with equal political rights and conducting socio-political activities freely. Everyone is substantially provided with the rights to food, clothing and housing and necessary conditions by the state and society.

Our people are studying to their heart's content with the complete right to learn under the free compulsory educational system and are living in good health and working without any worries thanks to the free medical service and popular policies.

Our socialism is a society the whole of which is welded into a big harmonious family. It is a universal phenomenon in our country to regard the pain of one's comrades as his own and sacrifice himself for them. This is inconceivable in capitalist society.

Our socialism has become a superior society respecting human dignity and personality in every way because it is embodying the great chuche idea.

Choe Kwang on Kim Chong-il as Supreme Commander

SK2712060092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1220 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Speech by Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and chief of General Staff of Korean People's Army, KPA, at a meeting of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces on 24 December marking the first anniversary of Kim Chong-il's election as supreme commander of the KPA—recorded]

[Text] Comrades, all of the people across the country and officers and men in the Korean People's Army [KPA] are vigorously waging the struggle of loyalty to glorify the 40th anniversary of victory of the great Fatherland Liberation War as a great festival of victors with single-hearted unity and cohesion with the party and the leader. Under this exciting circumstance, we are celebrating a significant day: the first anniversary of the election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, a unique military strategist and uncommon, sagacious commander, as supreme commander of the KPA. [applause]

The election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA at the historical 19th plenary meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee was a clear manifestation of the unanimous wish and will of our people and the officers and men of the People's Army to remain loyal and filial to the comrade leader, as the head of the revolutionary armed forces. This was also a great, remarkable event in the nation's and mankind's history. [applause]

By respectfully electing dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA, our People's Army has been constantly strengthened and developed into a powerful and invincible army. It is now capable of accomplishing the chuche-based cause of army building pioneered at Mt. Paektu. Popular mass-centered socialism of our own style is now demonstrating its dignified appearance as indomitable, ever-victorious socialism capable of smashing any challenge and aggressive maneuvers by the enemy.

By upholding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, an outstanding military genius and a great and sagacious commander whom all fellow countrymen follow and all people respect, and under the wise guidance of comrade supreme commander, during the past year our People's Army has attained the highest stage of its development and achieved great change and proud success unprecedented in the history of army building. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our People's Army guided by supreme commander Kim Chong-il is sure to win every battle with any strong enemy. Thanks to the wise guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander, a turning point was registered in ideological and mental traits of officers and men in the KPA. This was the greatest change in strengthening and developing the People's Army during the past year.

The officers and men in our People's Army traveled the road of glorious struggle and victory for a long time, more than a half century, by upholding the party and the leader. Their ideological and mental traits have reached a new, higher stage today.

By cherishing a thorough determination and faith to uphold the respected comrade supreme commander with loyalty and filial piety and to follow him to the end, all officers and men in the People's Army firmly support the comrade supreme commander. As a result, the single-hearted unity of the whole Army has been further consolidated.

The single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks originated with the respected comrade supreme commander's great trust and fatherly love of warriors.

Warmly calling the People's Army "my army," the respected comrade supreme commander always extended the greatest honor to the People's Army first and gave gifts to the People's Army before anyone else. He extended boundless benevolence and care to the officers and men in our People's Army this year as well.

Although hundreds and thousand years have passed since armies were formed, there is no other instance in the entire history of the world in which all officers and men of the army were decorated with orders, medals, and gifts of love on the anniversary of the founding of the army. This is a great honor and happiness which only our soldiers, who are upholding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as our supreme commander, can enjoy. [applause]

The retired soldiers, who fought by dedicating their lives to the fatherland in the past, in the former Soviet Union and East European countries which ruined socialism are roaming around the streets unable to find jobs. Through this miserable reality, we came to more realize better the great honor and happiness we are enjoying by upholding the great leader [widaehan suryong] and great sagacious commander as supreme commander.

Indeed, the respected comrade supreme commander made the revolutionary fighters stand on the zenith of honor and happiness and embraced all of our officers and men in his warm bosom of love. He is our great benefactor and the permanent sun of our life who glorified our valuable lives.

Therefore, our officers and men endlessly adore the respected comrade supreme commander not only as the leader of the revolutionary armed forces but also as great father and great comrade. They are firmly resolved to offer their youth and lives without hesitation to comrade supreme commander, thus remaining loyal and filial to him.

Our single-hearted unity has been further consolidated as unity with loftiest and permanent vitality in which the leader endlessly love the warriors while warriors uphold the leader as their father and in which their love, loyalty, trust and filial piety are being firmly combined. This is the very source of the invincible, boundless might of our revolutionary armed forces.

Only when the party spirit and revolutionary spirit of the commanding members are high, can the revolutionary Army excellently fulfill its mission by cherishing lofty ideological and mental traits.

The respected comrade supreme commander took epoch-making steps for commanding members to constantly enhance the party spirit and revolutionary spirit in compliance with the demand of a new higher stage for further strengthening and developing the People's Army into the Army of the leader and of the party.

The respected comrade supreme commander, in particular, paid special attention so that the third and fourth generations of the revolution, who constitute the main force of the People's Army, correctly inherit the revolutionary spirit and trait of struggle displayed by the first and second generations of the revolution in the past.

Under the wise guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander, the education of soldiers from third and fourth generations of the revolution has been constantly deepened. As the result, a great number of heroes of the 1990's and unheralded persons of merit, who are struggling by dedicating everything to the party, the leader, the fatherland, people, groups and comrades, were produced from them.

Indeed, ideological and mental conditions of soldiers of the People's Army today are excellent. They are resolved to live and fight with the spirit of revolutionary soldiers in firm unity with the party and the leader by deeply trusting only their leader without a slightest degree of wavering, despite whatever violent storms and arduous difficulties lie before them. This is the very proud outlook on struggle and constitution of our People's Army. [applause]

Another great achievement made in strengthening and developing our People's Army under the wise guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander is that the military and technological might of our People's Army has been unprecedentedly strengthened.

Our People's Army has been strengthened into invincible, ever-victorious army on the road of brilliantly implementing the self-defensive military line under the wise leadership of the party and the leader. By upholding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great sagacious commander, as its supreme commander, our People's Army further strengthened its military and technological might as an unrivaled army capable of smashing any strong imperialist army in this world.

Based on his scientific observation of the characteristic nature of modern warfare and of the trend of development of military science, the respected comrade supreme commander paid close attention to the modernization of the People's Army and wisely led us so that we could carry out the modernization of arms and equipment boldly and on a large scale. As the result of this, mobilization capability, firepower and striking ability of the People's Army have been remarkably enhanced.

Upholding the militant slogan "Let us glorify the 1990's as annals of reunification by conducting training after training," all the officers and men of the People's Army are preparing themselves to be one-a-match-for-100 revolutionary fighters by vigorously waging combat and political training.

The traditional fine custom of military-civilian unity—the source of indomitable strength of the People's Army—is blooming more brilliantly each day by upholding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA.

The respected comrade supreme commander put forward it as one of basic questions for strengthening the driving force of our revolution and for enhancing combat capabilities of the People's Army to strengthen military-civilian relations. He gave precious teachings on many occasions on highly demonstrating the fine custom of military-civilian unity. He wisely led us so that we could vigorously wage the movement to win the title of model unit of military-civilian unity and the movement of (?unity) with our school, our outpost, our plant, and our unit.

Thanks to the wise guidance and benevolence of the respected comrade supreme commander, great epoch-making events took place in military-civilian relations for the last one year, and a new chapter of further glorifying the history of our People's Army, which traversed in the midst of the people's support and love, was opened. [applause]

Indeed, the last year, during which our People's Army vigorously advanced by following the great guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander, was the year of great innovations and changes. [applause]

Such great innovations and changes attained in strengthening and developing our People's Army during the past one year clearly proved that the guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander is the life of our People's Army and decisive guarantee of all victories. [applause]

Comrades, today we are faced a grave yet glorious task to defend firmly popular mass-centered socialism of our own style by following the great guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander and to ensure with the armed forces the final achievement of national reunification and the chuche revolutionary cause.

For our revolutionary Army to fulfill lofty missions and duties assigned by the party and the revolution by crushing various types of challenge by the enemy, it should remain endlessly loyal to the guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander. In doing this, there are the secret of the People's Army to everlasting victory and destiny and bright future of our nation and people.

All officers and men should, above all, more deeply cherish the great pride in upholding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

It is indeed a good fortune and greatest happiness which only our People's Army can enjoy to uphold dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great and outstanding military strategist and matchless sagacious commander, as supreme commander. [applause]

We should live a valuable life only as warriors of comrade supreme commander, whether we live for a moment or a long life, and should remain as genuine loyalists and dutiful sons. No idea or guidance other than that of the respected comrade supreme commander can take place within the revolutionary army—the army of the respected comrade supreme commander.

Therefore, we should sharply realize that life and death of the People's Army, as well as its success and failure, depend on guaranteeing unitary nature of ideas and guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander. We should act and breathe according to ideas and (?breath) of comrade supreme commander at any place and any time. We should loyally uphold only the guidance of comrade supreme commander.

All officers and men should register great innovations in completing combat preparedness of the People's Army on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of great victory of the fatherland liberation war.

By upholding the party's militant appeal, all officers and men of the People's Army should carry out the struggle to thoroughly complete the combat preparedness and to significantly greet the 40th anniversary of war victory as a great festival of victors.

Although tasks facing us are enormous and the enemy's challenge has become more vicious, as long as there is the wise guidance of the respected comrade supreme commander, there cannot be any difficulty that we cannot overcome, and our victory is certain.

Let us all more tenaciously fight for final achievement of national reunification and chuche revolutionary cause by upholding the guidance of respected comrade supreme commander with loyalty and filial piety and by cherishing the faith in sure victory and revolutionary optimism. [applause] [crowd shouts "Long live Comrade Kim Chong-il"]

Pak Song-chol Attends Agricultural Meeting

SK2712085692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—A national meeting of chairmen of primary organisations of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea (UAWPK) was held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on December 25 and 26.

The meeting reviewed the successes and experiences made in the work of the primary organisations of the UAWPK under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and discussed the task to bring up the entire members of the UAWPK into genuine persons with loyalty and filial duty to the party and the leader by increasing their function and role in keeping with the requirements of the developing reality.

It was attended by Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the DPRK, Kim Chong-nin and So Kwan-hui, secretaries of the party Central Committee, officials concerned and chairmen of model primary organisations of the UAWPK from all parts of the country.

Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the UAWPK, delivered a report at the meeting.

This meeting will become a loyal gathering of powerfully demonstrating the unshakable faith and the indomitable will of the UAWPK members to increase the function and role of basic organisations of the UAWPK in keeping with the developing revolution and the requirement of the present situation, thoroughly uphold the banner of the revolution, the banner of chuche and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche to the end under whatever circumstances, the reporter said.

He recalled that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il wisely led the work to strengthen primary organisations of the UAWPK and increase their function and role in each period and at each stage.

The agricultural working people should cement the driving force of the revolution as firmly as a rock by thoroughly modelling the whole union on the chuche idea as required by the development of the Korean revolution and resolutely defend and glorify the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses by stepping up the socialist rural construction with the might of singlehearted unity, the reporter said, and stressed:

Chairmen of the primary organisations of the UAWPK should exert all their energies to train all the unionists to be communist revolutionary fighters of chuche type and firmly unite the whole union around the party, bearing the great trust and expectation of the party deep in mind.

Then speeches were made.

The speakers evinced their determination to firmly unite all the agricultural working people behind the party and bring about a new upsurge in the agricultural production by increasing the function and role of the primary organisations of the UAWPK, upholding the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Russian Koryo Group Chairman Arrives 26 Dec

SK2712085892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—Sin Aleksey, chairman of the Koryo Association in Russia, and his party arrived here Saturday by plane.

Russian Communists Support Reunification

SK2712090192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—The Political Council of the Central Executive Committee of the Party of Communists of Russia issued a statement on December 9, supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

The agreement indicating the way of peacefully settling the North-South confrontation on the Korean peninsula and achieving the reunification of the country has not yet been implemented, the statement said, and continued:

The racket for nuclear inspection of the DPRK, resumption of large-scale military maneuvers, refusal to abolish the anti-popular "National Security Law," suppression of patriotic democrats and all other acts of the South Korean authorities obstructive to the implementation of the North-South agreement show who blocks the Korean people's desire for reunification.

We believe that the Korean people will win in their just cause of national reunification.

Trade Group Meets PRC Minister in Beijing

SK3112053792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] On 29 December, Li Lanqing, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and PRC foreign economic relations and trade minister, met in Beijing our country's government trade delegation led by Kang Chong-mo, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee, now visiting China. The conversation proceeded in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

PRC Energy Resource Delegation Ends Visit

SK3112091092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] A Chinese delegation led by Lu Youmei, vice minister of Ministry of Energy Resources, which had participated in the 45th meeting of the council of the DPRK-Chinese Hydroelectric Company, left Pyongyang by train today.

Han Kuk-sung, first vice chairman of the Power Industry Committee, and counselor of the PRC embassy in our country saw off the delegation at Pyongyang station.

PRC Sports Delegation Departs 26 Dec

SK2912075592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] A PRC sports delegation led by Liu Ji, vice chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, left by plane on 26 December. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Hwang Pong-yong, vice chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Committee, and the counselor of the PRC Embassy in our country.

CPC Recreation Group Departs for Home 26 Dec

SK2912081692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] A recreation group of CPC party functionaries led by Sha Jiansun, deputy director of the party History Research Center of the CPC Central Committee, returned home by plane on 26 December.

Kim Il-song Greets King of Nepal

SK2812055292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on December 27 sent a message of greetings to Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, king of the Kingdom of Nepal, on his birthday.

Expressing the belief that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would further develop, President Kim Il-song wished the king good health and happiness as well as the king and the people of the Nepal success in the work for the prosperity of the country.

Daily Observes Nepal National Day

SK2912104892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 29 Dec 92

["MINJU CHOSON Observes National Day of Nepal"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today observes the national day of the Kingdom of Nepal.

Referring to the achievements made by the Nepalese Government and people after embarking upon the road of building a new society, the paper says:

Pursuing the non-aligned policy externally, the Nepalese Government established friendly and cooperative relations with the non-aligned and developing countries and is developing them and striving for peace in Asia and the world.

The Korean people rejoice over the achievements of the Nepalese people in the struggle to build an independent and democratic, new society and over the favourable development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples in the common idea of independence, peace and friendship.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Nepal will be further strengthened and developed, we sincerely wish the Nepalese people greater success in the work for the prosperity of the country.

Bangladesh Delegation Departs 26 Dec

SK2912085492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] A Bangladesh economic delegation led by Khondeker Mosharraf Hussain, minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, returned home by plane on 26 December. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the External Economic Committee and functionaries concerned.

Castro Sends Congratulations to Kang Song-san

SK2912131792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Comrade Kang Song-san, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, has received a congratulatory message from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

The message congratulates Kang on his election as premier of the Administration Council on behalf of the government and people of Cuba, and on his own behalf.

The message wished Premier Kang Song-san success in his work. It also reaffirmed Cuba's continued support for and firm solidarity with the DPRK people's positive struggle for socialist construction, national reconciliation, and the nation's independent, peaceful reunification.

Kim Il-song Sends Congratulations to Castro

SK3112105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1044 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings on December 28 to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of victory of the Cuban revolution.

The message reads in part:

Over the past 34 years since the victory of revolution, the heroic Cuban people have smashed repeated moves of aggression and interference of the imperialists and firmly defended their motherland and the gains of revolution and vigorously advanced along the road of socialism.

The Korean people note with high estimation that now the Cuban people, rallied close around the Communist Party of Cuba headed by you, are defending the country's sovereignty and national dignity and pushing ahead with socialist construction undauntedly even under the difficult conditions of the persistent anti-socialist offensive and anti-Cuba blockade of the imperialists.

I am convinced that the strong bonds of friendship, solidarity, mutual support and cooperation between our two parties, two countries and two peoples which have been forged on the basis of the revolutionary principle and comradely obligations will continue to strengthen and develop.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wholeheartedly wish you and your people greater success in the efforts to implement the decisions of the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba and complete socialist society.

Kim Il-song Sends Flowers to Cuban Embassy

SK3112110892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1053 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on December 31 sent a basket of flowers to the Cuban embassy here on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

It was conveyed to Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega.

Kim Chong-il Sends Flowers to Cuban Embassy

SK3112110692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1054 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on December 31 sent a basket of flowers to the Cuban embassy here on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

It was conveyed to Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega.

Chang Chol Attends Cuban Revolution Celebration

SK3012051392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0436 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—A national meeting took place here Tuesday to celebrate the 34th anniversary of victory of the Cuban revolution.

Addressing the meeting, Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, said after the victory of the Cuban revolution the Cuban people have vigorously advanced along the road of socialism, firmly defending the gains of revolution from the never-ceasing aggression, interference and blockade of the U.S. imperialists.

The revolutionary changes and all victories which have taken place in the land of Cuba have demonstrated the advantages of the socialist system and its invincible vitality, and shown that no anti-Cuban campaign can force the united Cuban people to fall on their knees, he noted, and continued:

The friendship between the Korean and Cuban peoples is a solid and viable one that has been established and cultivated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who values the traditional relationship of friendship and cooperation between our two countries has said that it should be kept in bloom. The Korean people will make every effort to strengthen and develop their friendship, solidarity and cooperation with the Cuban people down through generations, and, in the future, too, as in the past, resolutely fight side by side with the fraternal Cuban people in the common struggle for independence against imperialism and for socialism, he declared.

Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to Korea, said that the friendship between Cuba and Korea has been consolidated steel-like in a long historical period.

The two countries have assumed the historic mission to safeguard socialism in the eastern and western hemispheres of the globe, he said, and went on:

Both the Cuban and Korean peoples are peoples with a great strength as they have two great parties and two great leaders, the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro.

The Cuban people have always supported with sincerity the Korean people's just cause of independent, peaceful reunification. We will continue to extend invariable support to the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

Extending, in the name of the Cuban Government, warm congratulations to the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on the new year, he expressed the hope that in the new year 1993 the Korean people will register greater success in all provinces of political, economic and social affairs and more powerfully move forward along the glorious road of socialism.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Premier Chang Chol and working people.

Photo Exhibit Marks Cuban Anniversary

SK2912050992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—A photo exhibition and film show was held here Monday on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the victory of revolution in Cuba.

Present there were Chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Chong Chun-ki, Vice-Chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and Vice-Chairman of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee Choe Hyon-tok, officials concerned and working people in the city.

Also present were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and embassy officials.

The participants saw round the pictures showing the achievements made by the Cuban people in the revolution and construction under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba and their firm defence of the socialist cause.

They appreciated a Cuban feature film.

NODONG SINMUN Views Cuban Revolution

SK3112102192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 31 Dec 92

["Cuban People Faithful to Cause of Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Thursday dedicates an editorial article to the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

After the victory of the revolution the fraternal Cuban people under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro have registered significant achievements in socialist construction, unshaken in face of the persistent anti-Cuban offensive of the imperialists, the article says, and goes on:

Today the Cuban people are working energetically to carry out the tasks of the "special period of the peace time", pulling through multiple obstacles and difficulties.

The Korean people extend firm solidarity to the fraternal Cuban people who are fighting to defend the gains of revolution and the cause of socialism and preserve peace in Central America and the Caribbean region.

The Korean and Cuban peoples are revolutionary comrades-in-arms and close friends who are working together for the common cause of independence, peace and socialism. The two peoples are tightening revolutionary bonds and closely cooperating with each other in the efforts for their common goal and ideal.

The two peoples are now fighting shoulder to shoulder on the common frontline for thwarting and frustrating the anti-socialist campaign of the imperialists and defending and promoting the cause of socialism.

In the future, too, as in the past, the Korean people will always extend active support to the just cause of the fraternal Korean people and strive to strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations with them.

The Korean people warmly congratulate the Cuban people on the 34th anniversary of the victory of Cuban revolution and believe that their just cause is sure to win.

Yasir 'Arafat Sends Flowers to Kim Il-song

SK2912105992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—A basket of flowers came to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, on the occasion of the New Year 1993.

It was handed to an official concerned by Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Ibrahim Muhammad today.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Yasir 'Arafat

SK3112111092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the

Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution.

In the message President Kim Il-song said after the start of revolution the Palestinian people have waged an unremitting struggle to end Israel's occupation and achieve the liberation of the country and national independence.

Today the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation are unyieldingly fighting on to retake the lost land and restore their legitimate national rights including the right to return home, the right to self-determination and the right to found an independent state, he noted.

The struggle of the Palestinian people enjoys positive support and sympathy of the world progressive people including the Korean people, he said, and stressed:

Our people will stand firm on the side of the fighting Palestinian people in the future, too.

Papers Note Palestinian Revolution Anniversary

SK3112104092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—Papers here today observe the 28th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution.

The start of an armed struggle by the Palestinian resistance fighters was an eruption of the pent-up resentment and rancor of the Palestinian people against the aggressors who illegally occupied Palestine and are imposing unbearable misfortunes and sufferings upon its people and a historical prelude signalling the start of the Palestinian revolution, says NODONG SINMUN in a bylined article today.

It goes on to say:

The proclamation of the state of Palestine in 1988 was a fruition of the noble struggle of the Palestinian people and it marked another important epochal occasion in their struggle.

They are now determined to fight it out till the final victory.

Their struggle enjoys support and sympathy of the world progressive people for its validity.

The Korean people express firm militant solidarity with the Palestinian people who are fighting for the liberation of the country on the occasion of day of the start of the Palestinian revolution.

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON wishes the Palestinian people greater progress in the accomplishment of their just cause.

Syrian Party Official on Socialist Constitution

SK2912104692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—Adnan al-Maktabi, member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Syrian United Socialist Democratic Party, issued a statement December 20 on the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Noting that the publication of the Socialist Constitution in Korea was a historical event, he said:

The ardent desire of the popular masses to lead an independent and creative life as genuine masters in a society free from exploitation and oppression has come true in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Korean people are leading a worthy and happy life under the wise leadership of the great comrade President Kim Il-song and the Workers' Party of Korea.

In the DPRK national economic plan is being successfully carried on and the might of all sectors further strengthened.

The Socialist Constitution of the DPRK provides the people with political right and happy material and cultural life and firmly guarantees the development of a self-supporting national economy.

Kang Song-san Sends Sympathy Message to Libya

SK2812054292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—Premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san sent a message of sympathy to 'Umar Abu-Zayd Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Upon hearing the unhappy news about many casualties caused by an unexpected plane accident in Libya on December 22, he expressed deep sympathy and condolences to the secretary and the bereaved families of the victims.

Kim Il-song Greets Slovenian President

SK2812054692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on December 26 sent a message of greetings to Milan Kucan upon his election as president of the Republic of Slovenia.

President Kim Il-song wished successes to the Slovenian president in his responsible work for the stability and development of the country and expressed the belief that the relations between the two countries would develop favorably.

Mozambican Premier Meets Envoy 21 Dec

SK2712085092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0806 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—The Mozambican Government will in the future extend active support and encouragement to the Korean people in their struggle to reunify their country through confederacy, said Mozambican Prime Minister Mario Fernandes da Graca Machungo when he met with the DPRK ambassador to his country on December 21.

He expressed satisfaction over the favourable development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

Kim Il-song Receives Flowers From Diplomats

SK3012131592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received floral baskets and congratulatory letters from the diplomatic corps and the military attache corps here on the New Year 1993.

Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega handed the floral basket and congratulatory letter to Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, on behalf of the diplomatic corps.

Doyen of the military attaches' corps Emilio Morales Segui, military attache of the Cuban Embassy, handed the floral basket and congratulatory letter to O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces.

Kim Il-song Offers Guidance on Tomb Building

SK2912051392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 29 Dec 92

["President Kim Il-song Gives On-Site Guidance to Reconstruction Project of Tomb of King Tongmyong"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-site guidance to the reconstruction project of the Tomb of King Tongmyong Monday.

He was accompanied by Kang Hui-won, alternate Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], vice-premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, Kang Hyon-su, member of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, and officials concerned.

The tomb situated in Yokpo District, Pyongyang, is the grave of King Tongmyong, the founder of Koguryo, a powerful state which lasted for a long time in the East, and one of the precious historical relics showing the fine architectural skills and time-honoured cultural traditions of the Korean people.

The tomb is being reconstructed dynamically under the policy of our party and the DPRK Government on preserving well the heritages of national culture.

Going round the tomb under reconstruction, President Kim Il-song expressed deep satisfaction over the fact that the tomb had been arranged well on the principle of historicism and extended thanks to the artists of the Mansudae art studio for having produced so fine stone sculptures as to represent well the phases of the period of strong Koguryo.

It was not until the Workers' Party age that the tomb of king Tongmyong could take on its more proud looks, he noted, adding that the reconstruction of one more cultural asset to be handed down to posterity is what the Korean people can be proud of.

He instructed that the work of unearthing and preserving cultural relics should be done well because the historical relics and remains associated with the wisdom and talent of our ancestors are of great importance in enhancing the national pride and patriotism of the people.

He gave highly important instructions which would serve as a guideline in accelerating the reconstruction project of the tomb and preserving the historic cultural relics and remains.

Further on Tomb's Reconstruction

SK3012053792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—The reconstruction of the tomb of King Tongmyong is progressing at a fast speed.

The tomb is situated in Yokpo District, Pyongyang.

It is the grave of King Tongmyong, the founder of Koguryo, a powerful state which had existed for a thousand year in the east. The tomb is one of the precious historical relics showing the excellent architecture and time-honoured cultural traditions of the Korean people.

The great leader President Kim Il-song Monday gave on-the-spot guidance to the reconstruction of the tomb.

Going round the tomb under reconstruction, President Kim Il-song noted with deep satisfaction that the tomb was being rebuilt well on the principle of historicism.

He said the work of unearthing, preserving and tending cultural relics should be done well as the historical relics and remains associated with the resourcefulness and talent of our ancestors are of weighty significance in fostering the national pride and patriotism of the people.

President Kim Il-song had visited the tomb of King Tongmyong in April 1989.

Kim Chong-il Attends Folk Dance Performance

SK2912111892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il saw the folk dance suite "Song of Seasons" performed by artistes of the Pibada Opera Troupe at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

The audience included secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premiers of the Administration Council and officials concerned.

"Song of Seasons" is a unique form of stage art which represents the customs of the Korean people in four seasons handed down from olden times in folk dances and national music.

Comrade Kim Chong-il noted with deep satisfaction and high appreciation that the choreographers, composers and artistes of the Pibada opera troupe gave a successful artistic representation of the time-honoured national customs of the Korean people in hearty response to the party policy of literature and art for properly carrying forward the cultural heritages of the nation.

He advanced important tasks which would serve as a guideline in properly carrying forward the valuable cultural heritages of our nation and creating socialist national culture and art.

In the inheritance of the cultural heritages of the nation, it is important to strictly guard against restorationism and nihilism, he said, stressing that new folklore of the Workers' Party age should be created by developing the folk dances of the ancestors in conformity with the ideology and emotion of our people.

In order to develop national dance from a chuche stand, it is essential to retain the tradition of national dance rhythms and properly combine all the factors of depiction including colorful national costumes and unique mixed orchestra, he said.

Naturalism and formulism are a taboo in choreography like in other fields of literature and art, he noted, and emphasized that more dance pieces based on various themes such as socialist construction, unity between the Army and the people and the independent and creative life of the Korean people should be created in various forms and in an original way.

Works of literature and art should be created on the highest level so that they may be flawless in the distant future because they are valuable cultural heritages of the nation, he said, stressing that all the choreographers, composers and artistes should fully display their creative enthusiasm, produce in larger numbers successful works of literature and art suited to the demand of the times and the ideology and emotion of the Korean people and become true creators and ardent defenders of socialist culture and art.

'Highly Appreciated' Performance

SK3012053692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—"Song of Seasons", a folk dance suite, was created in Korea.

It is performed by the artistes of the Phibada opera troupe.

"Song of Seasons" is a unique form of stage art which represents in folk dances and national music the customs of the Korean people in four seasons handed down from olden times.

The folk dance suite well shows the creative working life and beautiful customs of the Korean people and their aspirations and desire for the future.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il saw a performance of the folk dance suite "Song of Seasons" at the Pyongyang grand theatre.

Expressing deep satisfaction over the successful artistic representation of the time-honoured national customs of the Korean people, Comrade Kim Chong-il highly appreciated the writers, composers and artistes of the Phibada opera troupe for their success in its creation.

He stressed the need to strictly guard against restorationism and nihilism in inheriting the cultural legacies of the nation, develop the folk dances created by the ancestors in conformity with the ideology and sentiments of the Korean people, preserve the tradition of national dance rhythms and properly combine all the factors of representation including colorful national costumes and unique mixed orchestra.

Literature, Art Praises Kim Chong-il

SK2912055492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—A large number of literary and art works lauding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have been created in Korea since he was elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] on December 24, 1991.

More than 2,000 pieces were created and published over the past one year. Among them are some 20 novels, over 1,400 poems, above 200 songs and poems, more than 150 children's literatures, upwards of 150 art works, TV series, dramas, travel notes, essays, etc.

The novel "The Blue Sky" gives an emotional description of the fact that Comrade Kim Chong-il wisely led the work of sending such relief supplies as 50,000 som of rice (one som equals 4.9629 bushels), 500,000 metres of fabrics, 759 boxes of medicaments and 100,000 tons of cement to the South Korean flood sufferers in September 1984.

A lengthy poem "Following the Great, Brilliant Commander" gives a broad and deep, epical picture of the great image of Marshal Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces extending congratulatory salute "Glory to the officers and men of the heroic Korean People's Army" to the parading units from the rostrum of celebrating the 60th founding anniverdary of the heroic KPA.

Art works "Long Live Respected Supreme Commander Marshal Kim Chong-il!" and "Marshal Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces", vividly show in a poster and a Korean painting Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, reviewing the units of three services, his face beaming with a bright smile.

A short novel "Brilliant Place," a lyric poem "Our Supreme Commander, Iron-Willed Brilliant Commander," a song "Glory, Glory to Him," children's song and poem "Our Supreme Commander" and "We Will Present Report of Victory" have been also created.

The works give a deep ideological and artistic depiction of the Korean people's boundless pride, self-confidence and honour of holding Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces and their conviction and iron will to defend him politically and ideologically.

Film-Making Achievements for 1992 Detailed

SK2912052792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0422 GMT 29 Dec 92

["Fruitful Year of Film-making"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—Many films of high ideological and artistic value have been released in Korea this year. Among them, the multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" has won high appreciation as a model of Korean films which broke a new ground of film-making.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"The multi-part feature film 'The Nation and Destiny' can be said to be a film representing Korea, the face of Korean film."

This film, produced on the theme of the song "My Country Is the Best" which is widely sung among the people at home and abroad deals with the dramatic lives of people who have covered different paths of destiny full of turns and twists, on the basis of historical facts. Parts 1-10 of the film have been released, making a lucky hit at cinema houses.

The Parts 1-10 tell the profound truth that great national unity is, indeed, the road of patriotism and reunification and a sacred road for the country and the nation through the vicissitudes of life of Choe Hyon-tok (modelled after Choe Tok-sin) who was a former "ROK Army Corps commander", "minister of foreign affairs" of South Korea and "leader of Chondoism", Yun Sang-min (modelled after Yun I-sang), a prominent musician, and Cha Hong-ki (modelled after Choe Hong- hui), a former "ROK Army Corps commander" and president of the International Taekwon-do Federation.

It is a masterpiece which broke a worldwide ground in scenario, directing, acting, shooting, fine art and music and in its vast content and scale and deep-going thematic explanation.

In particular, the film is very popular as labour hero and people's actor Choe Chang-su, people's actor So Kyong-sop, merited actor Pak Ki-chu and other famous Korean actors and actresses who are widely known among moviemen's circles at home and abroad act heroes truthfully and vividly representing main characters. Follow-ups of the masterpiece are in the making.

"Kong Yong, a Revolutionary Fighter" and "Bulwark," two-part films about comrades Kong Yong and An Kil, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, are masterpieces which contributed to enriching the treasure-house of film art this year.

"Bulwark" impressively shows on the basis of historical facts the loyal and devoted efforts of An Kil, Kim Chaek, Choe Hyon and other anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters to accomplish the chuche-based cause of building the army in liberated Korea.

Among the newly released films are "Miss Ha and General Chin," a feature film adapted from an ancient Korean novel "records of the Ha's and Chin," "Story About a Flower" which gives a picture of a Japanese horticulturist Kamo breeding Kimjongilia, an immortal flower, "The Younger Generation on a Pasture," a film reflecting the worthy labor life and beautiful spiritual world of pasturing girls, and other films on the theme of realities and shorties giving a mobile reflection of the party's lines and policies.

The Korean documentary film studio and the Korean scientific and educational film studio also produced respectively scores of films this year.

Typical of documentary films are "Miracles of Korea," "We Will Uphold Our Supreme Commander For Ever" and "Praised by all People," and science films include "The Present and Future of Electronic Engineering," "Motion of Objects in Fluids" and "Taekwon-do" (Parts 1, 2 and 3).

Noteworthy success this year is the creation of many children's films which draw children's attention worldwide, such as "Player Penguin from the South Pole," a sequel of the animated cartoon "Clever Racoon Dog," and "Boy General," "A Fox in a Trap" and "An Occurrence on a Golden Field."

All the films created this year further enriched the flower garden of the chuche-inspired film art.

Achievements in Building in Pyongyang Noted

SK3012063292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—Enormous achievements have been made in the construction of the capital city in Korea this year like in other fields of the national economy.

An amazing speed was created in housing construction. Houses for 50,000 families were built in the first two years of the 1990s. Then a new project of building 30,000 flats in one year or more was launched. The frames of 25,000 flats have already been assembled, 1,500 flats completed and distributed to citizens and 5,000 flats have entered the finishing stage.

The builders of the capital city erected many monumental edifices including the three-revolution exhibition, a new building of Kim Chaek University of Technology, the Taekwon-do hall, the Oun hospital, the folk art exhibition and the bowling gymnasium and finished the second-stage project of the street car lines in the capital and the sewage disposal facilities in Pyongchon District.

They also built the April 15 children's flower garden with a plottage of a million square metres, 64 schools, kindergartens and nurseries and 89 service facilities.

A great progress has been made in industrial construction.

The construction of the east Pyongyang thermal power plant has been energetically accelerated, turbine No. 1 and boiler No. 2 of the plant have reached the stage of completion and the Aeguk colour TV assembling factory, the diode shop of the Pyongyang integrated circuit factory, the injection-moulding shop of the Pyongyang vinyl chloride shoe-making factory and the reconstruction and expansion project of the Pyongyang fur exports processing factory have been completed.

The builders are reporting signal successes at the end of the year at the construction sites of the monument to the victorious fatherland liberation war, the Nungna suspension bridge, the children's hospital, the Munsu Hotel and the third stage project of street car lines.

Rallies at Universities on Intellectual Tasks

SK3012053592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—Rallies were held at Kim Il-song University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang University of Medicine and many other universities to carry out the tasks set forth at the Korean intellectuals meeting.

A congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the Korean intellectuals meeting and a letter of pledge to the party Central Committee headed by respected Comrade Kim Il-song which was adopted at the meeting were read at the rallies.

Noting that the Korean intellectuals meeting set forth tasks facing the intellectuals in the educational domain to consolidate and develop the achievements in the education of the rising generation and the training of native cadres and carry through the theses on socialist education under the leadership of the party, the reporters and speakers vowed to successfully carry them out.

They said all the teachers and students should firmly establish a revolutionary attitude toward the leader, remain loyal and filial to the party and the leader and become an eternal companion, faithful helper, good advisor of the party and an ardent defender and strict executor of the party's policies in the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

They stressed that a revolutionary atmosphere of studying should be established at universities and all the students should study and study assiduously so that the ranks of doctors and associate doctors in their twenties and thirties may increase and the quality of university education should be improved to a higher stage and thus a great turn be effected in the training of native cadres.

They emphasized the need for all the teachers and students to play the role of vanguard fighters defending socialism with firm faith in it and devotely struggling for its victory.

Letters of pledge to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and resolutions were adopted at the rallies.

Meetings Discuss Tasks

SK3112044992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—Meetings were held at Kim Il-song Higher Party School, University of National Economy, University of International Affairs and Kum Song Political University to fulfil the tasks set at the Korean intellectuals meeting.

At the meetings the congratulatory letter of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the Korean intellectuals meeting was conveyed and the letter of pledge to the party Central Committee led by respected Comrade Kim Il-song which had been adopted at the meeting was read.

The reporters and speakers called on all the intellectuals to live a worthy life under the leadership of the party, remaining faithful to the party and the nleader.

They stressed the need to rear many leading officials of revolution by thoroughly implementing the party's policy of training cadres.

They also called for fully establishing the revolutionary outlook on the leader, holding in high esteem the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche with the leader, the party and the masses united in one mind.

Letters of pledges to Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at the meetings.

Daily on Kim Chong-il's Party-Building Work

SK3012131392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 30 Dec 92

["NODONG SINMIN on WPK's [Workers Party of Korea] Policy of Building Mass Party"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in his recent work "on the fundamental questions of revolutionary party building" clearly defined the building of the party into a mass party of the working people as the basic policy of our party building, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It further says:

Our party was the first in history to propound a unique theory on building the working-class party into a party representing the interests of broad segments of working people, thus laying an ideological and theoretical basis for constantly strengthening avd deeloping the party as required by the revolutionary practice in our era.

For the working-class party to become a party representing the interests of broad segments of people, in the true sense of the word, means that it becomes a party that champions the independent demand and desire not only of the working class but the peasants, working intellectuals and all other classes and strata and meets them.

It does not [word indistinct] the weakening of the class character of the party.

Our party's idea and theory on the strengthening and development of the working-class party into a mass party are unique ones which reflect the demand of our era.

Built into a new-type revolutionary party of the working class that represents the interests of broad masses of the people, our party has been able to constantly strengthen the blood ties with the popular masses and perform undying feats for the time and revolution with invincible might.

The afore-said idea and theory of our party are the most just theory of party building that reflects the lawful demand for the development of society and revolution.

Its validity is based on a profound analysis of the relations between the class demand of the working class and the independent demand of the popular masses and it correctly represents the nature of society and the lawful demand for its development.

Historical lessons show that if the working-class party failed to fully defend the interests of the popular masses in socialist society, it would lose their support and trust and such a party would be unable to maintain these revolutionary principles in the revolution and construction.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gift to 100-Year-Old Woman

SK2812103192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1004 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a centennial birthday table and a gift to Pae Tae-su living in Yonjung village, Haktang-ri, Taechon County, North Pyongan Province on her centennial birthday.

After she was widowed, she underwent all hardships and was maltreated under the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule. It was only after the liberation of the country that she could lead a true life.

The old woman who had lived under various social systems and realized through her own experience that the socialist system of Korea is the most superior one, was deeply moved by the birthday table and the gift. She said: "A thousand thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song" and "a thousand thanks to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il". Comrade Kim Chong-il sent, in the name of the military commission of the party Central Committee and the supreme commander, a wedding table and a gift to Yi Yong-ok, a guard of the factory where comrade Nam Un-son works, highly praising her beautiful deed in marrying with a disabled soldier.

South Korea

No Calls for 'National Reconciliation' in 1993

SK3112032592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Thursday that all conflicts should pass into history with end of 1992 for national reconciliation so a great era can open for Koreans.

No, in his new year's message to the nation, called on the people to tighten their belts once again, save more, sweat more, and emphasise continuous self-improvement.

"We should first ask whether we did all we had to do before we ask for our share, and we should blame ourselves before we blame others if we are to improve," he said.

The new year would bring a new president, and all people should help him create a new history, No said.

The next five years would be critical in deciding the future of Korea, and important tasks such as national unification and a second economic take-off lay ahead, he said.

A unified fatherland is a dream being translated into reality, he said, adding that a united Korea would be one of the 10 biggest powers in the world and bring peace and prosperity to the global community.

National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu said in his New Year's message that Korea had opened an era of civilian politics.

The majority party should be lenient and the minority parties should try to think rationally, he said.

Pak said he would do his utmost for the National Assembly to give a good impression to the people and show them that it works hard for the nation by abandoning old practices and senses.

Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu said in his message that the judiciary would fulfill its responsibility to realize a free democracy and a society firmly ruled by law.

Minister: Reunification, Trade Focus for 1993

SK3112014992 Seoul YONHAP in English 3108 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will seek peace on the Korean peninsula and international support for reunification all the more intensely in 1993 than it did in 1992, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Thursday.

Seoul must also concentrate on trade diplomacy, exploring new markets and forming economic relations with all nations, Yi said in his new year message to the nation.

"We have entered the era of active diplomacy with the four big powers surrounding the Korean peninsula," Yi said. "We must pool our efforts to make the Korean peninsula a pillar of Northeast Asian cooperation based on South Korea's national power and expanded diplomacy."

North Korea would have to abandon its unrealistic political line to escape its economic plight and diplomatic isolation, and it could not but agree to inter-Korean dialogue, the foreign minister predicted.

"We must create an international atmosphere to hasten the day of peaceful national reunification," Yi said.

In consideration of the global economic and political influence of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Seoul will strengthen relations with the regional body.

South Korea will step up its participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and take an active part in regional political dialogue, Yi said.

On trade diplomacy, the minister emphasized flexibility to adapt to a new global economic order by participating in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

"We must further expand on our market exploration into all countries of the world, including the communist bloc, to diversify our exports while maintaining smooth trade relations with our traditional partners," he said.

President-Elect Holds News Conference

SK3112014392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0103 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam says he is prepared to meet North Korean President Kim Il-song at any time, if he gives up his "Cold War mentality" and decides to join the worldwide flow of political reforms.

"Although I won't hurry, I believe a South-North summit is possible within my term in office and unification of our country will be realized within this century," Kim told a New Year's press conference.

Kim said his administration's foreign policy would be aimed at attaining unification of the country while maintaining national security and minimizing trade frictions in order to strengthen the economy.

But Kim said he had no immediate plans to travel abroad since he would have to work hard to solve mounting domestic problems and institute reform programs during his first year in office.

Kim, who will become the first civilian president in 32 years in February, declared that Chongwadae should no longer be "the seat of power."

He said he planned to open the presidential office to the public as much as possible so that he could take fast action on the people's needs. Specifically, he would root out bribery and other forms of corruption, conspicuous spending by citizens and collusion between politicians and businessmen.

Kim said his administration would also liberate the people from the "four maladies"—exam hell for students, traffic congestion, environmental pollution, and violence and crimes.

His government would be unable to carry out any of its policies, however, unless the people themselves took the initiative to change society for the better and resolved to do their best for reconstruction of their country, Kim said.

Referring to selecting his top officials, Kim said he was already looking around for a "clean" figure for prime minister who could represent the character of his administration. He said he would also employee officials who had worked in previous governments if they had no stigma.

Kim said violators of the election law should be picked out and punished. Election law violation usually came to nothing after elections in the past, but Kim said he would put an end to this practice. And that included the officials in Pusan who held a secret meeting Dec. 11 to help his own election bid, Kim said.

As for the elections of heads of local autonomous bodies, Kim said he hopes to hold them as soon as conditions are favorable. He thus indicated that the elections could be well before the June 1995 deadline set by the government and the Democratic Liberal Party.

Kim said that the timing to implement the so-called real name system for all financial transactions would be determined so that confusion and other adverse effects would be minimized.

Commenting on possible constitutional reform for a parliamentary form of government, an idea advanced by some segments of opposition parties, Kim said it is not desirable to take up the issue while his administration is being launched. Politicians should not try to change "the power structure" to serve the immediate interests of their parties or themselves, he said.

Former Premier Chong To Head Transition Team

SK3112021492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Dec 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] President-elect Kim Yong-sam named a 15-member transition team yesterday as the nation prepares for a transfer of power to the first truly civilian government in 32 years.

Former Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, who worked as Kim's chief campaign manager, was named chairman of the transition team to manage a smooth handover of power and set the rough outlines of policies for the new government.

The transition team will start operating next Monday, said Pak Hui-tae, spokesman for Kim's majority Democratic Liberal Party.

Kim takes office Feb. 25 next year to become the first civilian president of South Korea since President Syngman Rhee stepped down in 1960.

Chairman Chong said his team will work in close consultation with the incumbent government to "create no void in the administration of national affairs during the transition period."

The transition team will be broken down into 15 subcommittees for working-level transition tasks with the various government departments.

"Our goal is not to draw up specific policies but to lay the groundwork for carrying out the party's campaign pledges," Chong said in a news conference following his appointment to the chairmanship of the transition committee.

"There will be emphasis on keeping consistency in government policies, but we will certainly push for some new policies," Chong said.

Spokesman Pak said the party scrapped the plan to establish an advisory group to develop policy recommendations. Instead, the President-elect will depend on the party's existing policy-making groups to set the policy platform with assistance from outside scholars and experts, Pak said.

The spokesman said that the discussion of names for possible appointments to the transition team was held in a very closed inner circle that included Kim himself, DLP Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil and Chong.

The President-elect selected men of substantial stature who have been involved in the nuts and bolts of party operations, including his presidential campaign, Pak said.

But he denied rumors that many of the team members will be assigned cabinet posts in the new government.

Kim's choices were surprising to those observers who had expected working-level party officials to fill the jobs.

In choosing many "political heavyweights," analysts said, Kim intends to assert more influence during the transition work.

Kim's traditional allies were excluded from the transition committee, but most of the appointees are those who have secured a niche in Kim's inner circle by actively supporting his presidential campaign.

The most striking feature about Kim's transition team is its regional representation.

Kim has included representatives of various regions as well as various walks of life.

The way that Kim has constructed his team is in keeping with his urgent task of healing the wounds caused by the presidential election, party sources said.

Kim has been stressing the importance of reconciliation and harmony among the people who were divided by the election. Although much mitigated, regionalism still characterized this year's polls.

Kim won the Dec. 18 presidential election by running on the theme of change amid political stability.

Kim's most immediate challenge will be to revitalize the sagging economy. The South Korean economy is in a slump. Exports are slow and the growth rate slipped to 3.1 percent in the third quarter of this year, the lowest quarterly growth in 11 years.

The Lineup of the Transition Team

Chairman:	**Chong Won-sik**	**former prime minister**
Members:	Kim Han-kyu	DLP lawmaker
	Nam Chae-hui	DLP ex-lawmaker
	Pak Kwan-yong	DLP lawmaker
	So Chong-hwa	DLP lawmaker
	Sin Kyong-sik	DLP lawmaker

	Yang Chang-sik	DLP lawmaker
	Yu Kyong-hyon	DLP local chapter head
	Yi Chae-hwan	DLP lawmaker
	Yi Min-sop	DLP lawmaker
	Yi Hae-ku	DLP lawmaker
	Yi Hwan-ui	DLP lawmaker
	Chang Yong-chol	DLP lawmaker
	Choe Pyong-yol	DLP lawmaker
	Choe Chang-yun	chief secretary to President-elect
		Kim Yong-sam

Kim Yong-sam To Leave Reform Program to DLP

SK3112042392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam will depend on his transition team to prepare for his inauguration Feb. 25 and the formation of his cabinet, while leaving the task of working out his reform program to the ruling party, his aides said Thursday.

President-elect Kim had scrapped plans to form the new Korea committee as an advisory body for policy reforms, said one of his aides. Kim will leave that task to the party.

Chong Won-sik, chairman of the transition committee, met with the 14 members of his team for the first time Thursday morning and explained his intention to divide the team into five subcommittees—political, foreign-national security-unification, first economic, second economic, and social-cultural.

The transition team will be inaugurated Jan. 4 at the new Seoul building in Yoido before starting its business of receiving briefings from the outgoing administration and preparing for the presidential inauguration and forming a cabinet.

The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], meanwhile, was abuzz Thursday after Kim said he planned to carry out his reform program on the advice of the party.

"The party will normalize its business from the next year, holding a daily senior party officials meeting to discuss ways to implement campaign pledges and back up president-elect Kim's reforms," said Kim Yong-ku, secretary-general of the party.

The meeting, to be presided over by DLP Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil, will be attended by the party's floor leader, chief policymaker and secretary-general.

Kim Yong-ku said the party would make proposals on economic reforms, including the introduction of the so-called real name financial transaction system, to the new government. But the DLP was not contemplating a restructuring of itself at the moment, he said.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-sam has decided not to receive any new year's greeters lest they create a traffic nightmare around his home in Sangdo-dong, southwestern Seoul.

Instead, his aides said, Kim would go to a secluded place on the outskirts of Seoul with his wife, Son Myong-sun, and spend the New Year's holiday quietly after visiting the national cemetery and DLP headquarters on Friday morning.

Both Yi Ki-taek, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, and Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party are to pay their respects to the dead at the national cemetery on Friday morning before attending party New Year ceremonies.

Deputy Premier Urges Stable Transformation

SK3112033192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu said Thursday that the government's primary emphasis in 1993 would be regaining competitiveness, spurring investment and improving efficiency within the framework of stability.

"It will therefore help the next government facilitate changes and transformations smoothly on the basis of economic stability," he said in a new year's message to the nation.

"The country is tasked with making a new leap into a highly industrialized society within the framework of stability after putting an end to the period of high inflations and growth," said Choe, who is also economic planning minister.

Choe urged businessmen to boost international competitiveness through managerial innovation and technological development while asking workers to cooperate in improving industrial relations.

Cho Sun, governor of the Bank of Korea, said Korea's monetary policy should be to manage currency smoothly.

"The nation may face increasing difficulty in monetary management as more foreign capital is expected to flow into the country and demand for businesses is to increase," Cho said.

The central bank would redouble efforts to provide appropriate fluidity while curbing imports of foreign capital as much as possible, he said.

He said his bank would seek to implement the second-phase liberalization of interest rates as soon as possible and guarantee autonomy of commercial banks and other financial institutions.

Challenges of 'Post-Cold War Era' Viewed

SK3012030892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 30 Dec 92

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea elected its first post-cold war president this month to grapple with a diplomatic task that is blurry but demanding.

Gone are ideological conflicts between communism and capitalism; Here to stay are plays for individual political and economic gain.

Unlike President No Tae-u, who hung out the banner of "nordpolitik" early on in his administration, President-elect Kim Yong-sam has no sign board.

He has in front of him a line of unturned cards—the new U.S. Government of Bill Clinton, rickety relations with Japan, and trade pressure that is yet to take form, to name a few.

"Now is the time to seek practical gains from nordpolitik," says Kim Il-su, director of the East European division at the Foreign Ministry.

No's administration virtually bet its diplomatic success on nordpolitik, pursuing friendship with the communist bloc. The brightest accomplishments came in diplomatic normalization with the Soviet Union in 1990 and China just this August.

Despite criticism at home of "buying" Korea's way by offering economic assistance for normalization, epitome of which is the yet-to-be-paid-back 3 billion U.S. dollars in aid to Moscow, Kim insists that nordpolitik has borne fruit and will bear still more.

"At least we can talk directly with Russia and China on inter-Korean issues. We went through the ceremonial process of signing papers. Now we need to win them over by showing them the practical benefits that they have to gain in their relations with Seoul," says Kim, emphasizing the word "practical."

If the past objective was to declare friendship, the new objective is to stay friends, proving to these countries it is in their interest to see a strong, independent South Korea, he says.

Some claim a return to the more obvious task—strengthening ties with South Korea's traditional allies—somewhat neglected during Seoul's pursuit of nordpolitik.

While Seoul and Washington maintained close relations by having a common enemy—North Korea's nuclear threat—Seoul and Japan drifted apart while trying to settle the past of 35 years of colonial rule and wartime atrocities.

The burden is on the next administration to heal the wounded relations with Japan.

Tokyo tried intensely to wrap up all the issues, such as Korean "comfort women" abused as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers, before No steps down, but met harsh opposition from Seoul, which demanded historical rectification and a formal apology.

"We must always remember the geographical proximity," says Pak Tu-pok, a researcher at the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

"Although Seoul maintains tight security cooperation with Washington, the United States is still a nation on the other side of the ocean," Pak points out. "Japan is the one that lies next to us. We have to work closely with Tokyo."

South Korea will soon have to decide at what point it will settle the past, accept Japan's atonement and truly form "forward-looking relations."

But the most unmet, and thus the most challenging, task is trade diplomacy.

There is no more ideological struggle. It has been replaced by nations looking out for their own political and economic interests.

"It wouldn't be so frightening if South Korea's economy weren't so dependent on other countries," So Yong-hyon, director of the International Trade division, says.

Observers predict the fiercest fight ever to survive in the post-cold war era, where politics is economy. The emergence of regional trade blocs like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and growing talks for an Asian free trade area are clear indications of such a struggle.

Japan, again, poses a major challenge. Seoul and Tokyo agreed on an action plan in July, forming the foundation to expedite technology transfer and even out the trade imbalance in Japan's favor, which took up over 90 percent of South Korea's trade deficit with the world last year.

The success of the action plan will depend on how much the next administration takes advantage of the foundation and other projects.

Clinton has made known he will go after America's economic interests. He is expected to establish an economic security council in the White House, a symbol of new U.S. trade aggression.

"The only losers under the circumstances are small countries like South Korea," So warns. "They can easily get buried by the trade giants.

"Our only chance is with multilateral negotiations. We have to keep our fingers crossed for successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round," says So.

Establishing diplomatic goals is apparently more difficult now because everyone is struggling with the uncertainties thrown at them with the end of the cold war.

The only guiding principle is a country's own interests, and South Korea will have to make quick decisions.

Yi Suggests DP Convention Before Inauguration

SK3012120292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0721 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—Yi Ki-taek, leader of the Democratic Party [DP], suggested Wednesday that the nation's largest opposition party hold its national convention before the presidential inauguration on Feb. 25.

Yi, who became the DP's sole leader after the retirement of Kim Tae-chung, said it was desirable for the party to maintain the current leadership structure of one executive chairman and an eight-member supreme council.

Talking to reporters, Yi said he prefered to hold the party's convention ahead of the presidential inauguration because any sign of DP disarray that may emerge during the convention could be construed as weakness to Kim Yong-sam's new government.

Yi said the Democratic Party will form committees to prepare for the national convention and a subcommittee for revision of the party charter as soon as it resumes work on Jan. 4.

Yi said he is in favor of electing the executive chairman and supreme council members separately.

With regard to possible constitutional reform to institute a parliamentary form of government, Yi noted that the Democratic Party's basic policy was based on the presidential system of government. To discuss this issue, therefore, could only cause a split in the opposition, he said.

Over at the United People's Party [UPP], leader Chong Chu-yong convened a meeting of senior officials Wednesday afternoon and decided to form a special committee for restructuring the party.

The UPP also decided to reduce the number of heads of local chapters after evaluating their performance in the presidential election and prospects for next general elections. All 237 local chapter heads have already tendered their resignations.

DP Faces Harsh Competition for Leader

SK3112013492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Dec 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Sim Chae-yun]

[Text] Democratic Party [DP] executive chairman Yi Ki-taek and other co-chairmen are bracing for harsh competition to take the top party post vacated by former party leader Kim Tae-chung after his defeat in the presidential election.

The co-chairmen who have clarified their intention to run for the party leadership against executive chairman Yi are Reps. Kim Sang-hyon, Kim Won-ki and Chong Tae-chol belonging to the majority Sinmin faction formerly led by Kim Tae-chung.

Despite continuing haggling over formation of the next party leadership, party leaders share the opinion that it is better to adopt the unitary system of a leader with relatively strong authority as against a collective leadership.

The party plans to hold a national convention around February or March to finalize organizing the party leadership.

Yi wants to advance the convention. He said yesterday in a meeting with reporters that it was desirable to conduct the convention in February before the inauguration ceremony of president-elect Kim Yong-sam.

He opined that an early convention will help dispel the impression that the party is split following its election defeat.

Yi's ulterior intention for pushing ahead with the early convention is not to give time to possible contenders from the Sinmin faction, thus preventing them from posing threat to his bid to gain the party leadership, political observers say.

Yi leads the minor Minju faction. He merged his splinter party into the present DP leading a group of lawmakers mostly from the Kyongsang provinces. At that time Kim Tae-chung needed them to exorcize the image that his party had of being a regional one confined to the Cholla provinces.

Other co-chairmen raised objection to Yi's idea. They say it is not proper for the party to hasten to form a new leadership at this time when it is still staggering from shock following the election defeat.

Yi asserts that he is the best qualified to take Kim's place as he has led the party along with him as representative co-executive chairman from the opposition merger.

He judges he can win the top party post with the support of the Minju faction members comprising 40 percent of the total representatives in the national convention.

The most formidable contender against Yi in the Sinmin faction is Rep. Kim Sang-hyon. He got the largest number of votes among the eight co-chairmen in the national convention in May.

He asserts he is the appropriate successor to former leader Kim for the majority Sinmin faction. He is trying to allure the convention representatives to support him mostly from the Cholla provinces.

Reps. Kim Won-ki and Chong Tae-chol are also revealing the intention to run for the top party post.

Kim claims he is the most proper new leader as he has been the closest confidant of the former DP leader Kim. He attended a meeting of party members in district chapters in Chollapuk-to province on Dec. 26. to appeal for their support.

Rep. Chong asserts it is necessary for the party to shake up the party system to meet the changed political situation. Chong, 48, is a four-term lawmaker in Chunggu district in Seoul.

DP, UPP Leaders Give New Year's Message

SK3112041892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—Democratic Party [DP] leader Yi Ki-taek said Thursday that the ruling and opposition parties should "show new appearances to the people" in 1993 and join hands to create "a new epoch" of parliamentarian democracy.

"If the new government works sincerely for the people, the Democratic Party will cooperate in all matters and give it good advice," Yi said in his New Year's message.

He called for the creation of a clean government implementing epochal measures for economic recovery, curing regional rivalry and releasing political prisoners.

Yi has headed the DP since Kim Tae-chung retired from politics after the Dec. 18 presidential election.

United People's Party [UPP] leader Chong Chu-yong, in his message, said: "We should cure regionalism and conflicts that were exposed in the presidential election and open an epoch for reconciliation. The UPP will lead others in opening an age of harmony and cooperation.

"The new government should implement policies for boosting small- and medium-sized companies and make efforts not to lose the people's confidence in law enforcement," said Chong, who also contested the presidency.

New Political Reform Party leader Pak Chan-chong said: "We should overcome confrontation and conflict and recover reconciliation and hope."

"The new administration should terminate bad habits like adhesion of politics and economics, and real estate speculation," said Pak, who did much better than expected in the election.

UPP To Send Delegation to U.S. Inauguration

SK3112042092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United People's Party [UPP] will send a delegation to next month's U.S. presidential inauguration, party sources said Thursday.

Reps. Kim Tong-kil, Kim Pok-tong and Chong Mong-chun are to go to Washington separately from the official National Assembly delegation, according to the sources.

Rep. Kim Yong-hwan left Wednesday on a Japan-U.S. trip for personal business. Chong and Pong Tu-wan will visit the United States soon to attend a meeting of parliamentarians.

Economic Talks With U.S. Set for Mid-Jan

SK3112033492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States are to tackle all major trade issues at negotiations lined up for the first few months of the new year, officials said Thursday.

Working-level talks are scheduled for mid-January for intellectual property rights protection, a step before the U.S. Government's country-by-country evaluation in April.

Inter-governmental negotiations on U.S. anti-dumping charges against South Korean semiconductors are expected in January, timed before the U.S. Commerce Department's final ruling on March 15.

The telecommunication market talks postponed from December due to presidential elections in the two countries will resume either in January or February, while the annual trade sub-group meeting that opened in October will resume in March because of the newly-entering administrations.

Korea-U.S. economic consultation, the highest window for bilateral trade negotiations, will open in April.

Officials here predict Bill Clinton's administration to focus on Korea's wider opening to foreign investment and early approval of Korea's second mobile telecommunication company, in which American companies can participate through a consortium.

An agreement to stop Washington's anti-dumping investigation on semiconductors has to be made before the March 15 ruling, and Korea's trade and industry minister may personally go to Washington for government-level talks on concluding a pact for avoiding an anti-dumping probe, officials said.

The United States may ask for the same kind of agreement it has with Japan, they said.

The U.S. side is likely to complain against piracy of computer software and audio and video cassettes and demand Korea recognize the idea of "leasing" intellectual property rights as done by 20 countries, including Japan and France.

DLP Seeks To Revise Assembly Election Law

SK3012052492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 30 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Lawmakers elected from the national constituency under the proportional representation system may be barred from deserting their party to join another.

The majority Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) said Monday that it would seek to revise the current National Assembly Election Law to this end.

DLP Secretary-General Kim Yong-ku said lawmakers should automatically lose their parliamentary seats if they bolt their party.

Kim said his party would seek to overhaul the national-constituency issue and others related to the election system after the new government is inaugurated in February.

Under the law, the national-constituency seats are distributed to parties in accordance with the number of parliamentary seats they gain through direct popular voting. Of the 299-member National Assembly, 75 national-constituency seats are up for grabs.

In a related movement, an aide to President-elect Kim Yong-sam also stressed the need to overhaul the current national-constituency system.

Kim's think tank has been studying two options, decreasing the number of the national-constituency seats and baring national-district lawmakers from joining another party. The latter option is likely to be adopted, according to the aide.

Recently, Rep. Cho Yun-hyong, former Vice Assembly speaker who was elected on the national-constituency ticket of the United People's Party, joined the Democratic Party, inviting much criticism of his action.

Kim Yong-sam's Relative To Quit as KTRA Head

SK3012063792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—Son Un-pae, President-elect Kim Yong-sam's brother-in-law, said Wednesday that he would resign as president of the Korea Teachers' Research Association (KTRA) next month.

Son told reporters an aide to the president-elect had recommended Tuesday that he step down, and so he would.

"I am planning to step down in late January, after the association takes root," Son said.

Son, 55, teaching at Inhon primary school in Seoul, stirred up controversy by taking the post and Kim had to announce that he wouldn't tolerate any of his relatives accepting suspicious jobs during his tenure as president.

KTRA, comprising 300 teachers of the Korean Federation of Teachers' Association, elected Son chairman at its inaugural meeting Monday. It vows to fight dissident teachers represented by Chongyojo, the national teachers union.

Representative, Former Minister Face Charges

SK2912050892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—The prosecution has decided to book former Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun and Rep. Chong Mong-chun without detention on charges stemming from its investigation of the controversial Pusan meeting and bugging case, sources said Tuesday.

The prosecution has also decided to book Mun Chong-yol, a former official of the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., An Chong-yun, and Kim Nam-sok, an employee of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), the sources said.

Prosecutors were to issue a report on the investigation in the afternoon, capping the probe into the Pusan meeting of Kim and city officials whose conversation dealt mainly with ways to help Kim Yong-sam win the Dec. 18 presidential election.

The conversation was secretly taped and released by Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong's United People's Party [UPP].

Sources said that meeting participants other than Kim will not be charged.

The former justice minister will be charged with violation of the presidential election law, which bars campaigning by people who are not officially listed as campaign staff.

The prosecution decided to book Kim as his remarks influenced the election's outcome and caused a breach of the government's political neutrality, one source said.

Rep. Chung, a son of Chong Chu-yong, Mun and An Chong-yun will all be charged with obstruction of justice.

Mun and An hid bugging devices in the Pusan restaurant where the meeting was to take place on a tip from Kim Nam-sok, according to the prosecution.

They met Chong at a Seoul hotel and handed over the tape, and the UPP lawmaker is suspected of having instructed an attending Hyundai executive to give 10 million won for Song and 20 million won for Mun, prosecutors said.

Mun asked for 9 billion won for the tape and Chong said he would consider it, the prosecution said.

Kim Nam-sok is suspected of taking part in the bugging operation in addition to giving the tip, but is refusing to reveal how he got the information about the meeting, they said.

Colonel Not To Be Charged

SK3112035892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0159 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has decided not to charge a colonel who attended a gathering of top Pusan officials before the election to discuss helping President-elect Kim Yong-sam, a ministry official said Thursday.

The military prosecutor's office had studied remarks made by Col. Kim Tae-kyun, chief of the Pusan detachment of the Defense Security Command, in the meeting to find if they violated the presidential election law, the official said.

It was decided that Kim can't be charged under an article of the presidential election law that bans public officials from trying to influence elections, he said.

The military prosecutor's office questioned Kim on Tuesday after receiving a tape of the meeting from the Seoul district prosecutor's office on Monday.

Continued U.S. Presence Needed in Somalia

SK3012050392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Mercy Mission in Somalia"]

[Text] U.S.-led troops dispatched to Somalia have completed the first phase of their mission having secured the main roads for the transportation of relief goods and set up centers for their distribution to the famine-stricken people. The 20-odd days of "Operation Restore Hope" has so far been so successful as to allow the delivery of Christmas gifts.

At the same time, the effective military operation has paved the way for President George Bush to make a 24-hour New Year visit there—this time free of any political burden—and to mark another triumph in the nation's overseas action following that in the Gulf War. Bush plans to wind up the expeditionary mission and hand it over to the United Nations before Bill Clinton takes office on Jan. 20.

More than 350,000 Somalis have reportedly died of famine and disease and two million more are on the verge of starvation in what is called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The initial contingent of 1,800 U.S. Marines, augmented later to over 18,000, has been joined by some 3,000 troops from 17 other countries.

In the meantime, Somalia's main warring factions have reached a peace agreement to end two years of bloody feudal conflicts. In a peace rally, the two rival warlords, Ali Mahdi Mohamed and Gen. Mohamed Farah Aidid, pledged unity, peace and reconciliation and the lifting of the front line or "Green Line" that divides the capital.

With the favorable development in the country in the Horn of Africa, expectations are running high for the restoration of peace and order without firefight with local bandits who had plundered some 80 percent of relief goods.

The peace accord between the warlords brokered under heavy U.S. pressure should be faithfully implemented. But it will not be able to stop looting and shooting by renegades loyal to neither clan. And the rival lords are still unhappy about the change in the situation.

So the Bush plan to evacuate the American troops before the Clinton inauguration risks the eruption of new warfare between the rival factions who have refused to disarm. A continued U.S. military presence may be needed to control the potentially explosive situation there.

Before the American troops' departure, Washington and other participating countries need to decide on overall military and political arrangements to secure a lasting peace and allow the conduct of mercy missions within the framework of United Nations resolution.

Ministry Reports 9 Hanged for Capital Offenses

SK2912064992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0602 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—Nine people convicted of capital offenses were hanged Tuesday.

They included Chang Hyo-sang, 65, and Yu Chung-nam, 47, both convicted of murder and robbery, a Justice Ministry spokesman said.

Seven were hanged in Seoul and two in Taegu.

The executions left 50 people on death row.

The executions were carried out to show the resolution of the government to combat felonies, the spokesman added.

Public Execution in North Korea Reported

SK2912031992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0124 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Berlin, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—Stealing food is a capital offense in North Korea, where posters warn that anyone caught taking from a rationing house will be executed and their family sent to a labor camp, the German news magazine DER SPIEGEL says.

The magazine, in feature story on North Korea, says policemen keep watch over the lines of people in front of rationing houses.

A reporter for the magazine visited Pyongyang, Wonsan and Hamhung, and rural areas.

The report says he saw North Korean security troops execute a man convicted of being "imbued with impure ideologies and committing holdups" while the people of Hamhung looked on. The man was gagged so that he couldn't scream, the report says.

It estimates 1 percent of the North Korean population lives in scores of correction centers and labor camps around the country.

The report quotes two youths who had escaped from the No. 15 labor camp in Hamhung and fled to Hong Kong as saying that some 15 detainees were executed every year. Inmates were forced to stone them first.

North Korea has conducted daily blackout drills since September, when it broke off dialogue with South Korea, the report says, adding that the government is telling the people that the South is engaged in preparations to attack the North with nuclear weapons.

People in North Korea live like animals, foraging for roots to stay alive, the report says.

It says the reporter saw women carrying heavy burdens along several kilometers of blackened tunnels during his rare chance to visit rural areas without a state guide.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Bar Council on Move To Strip Rulers' Immunity

BK3012090492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 30 (AFP)—The Malaysian Bar Council warned Wednesday that a government plan to strip hereditary rulers of their immunity from prosecution, following the alleged misconduct of one ruler, could destroy the monarchy.

The council, representing some 3,800 lawyers in the country, proposed that a Royal Tribunal be established, or other solutions which could still preserve the Constitution.

Removal of the rulers' immunity now provided by the Constitution would have very serious consequences, the council argued in a special editorial in its latest quarterly journal released Wednesday.

It said there was no justification to penalise other blameless rulers over the alleged misdeeds of one ruler. "To make all the other rulers appear also as culprits is to misrepresent and mislead."

The warning came as the government was preparing to amend the 1957 federal Constitution in a special parliamentary session from January 18-20 to remove rulers of their immunity from prosecution.

The move was triggered by a public outcry over the alleged assaults on commoners by the ruler of southern Johore state, Sultan Iskandar Ismail, 60, and his 22-year old son, Tengku Majid Idris.

"Bereft of the immunity, which is its integral part, the institution of constitutional monarchy will cease to exist except only in name," it said.

"If that happens yet another institution designed to promote the democratic system of government envisaged by the Constitution will be destroyed," the council warned.

The council said the amendment would in fact "arm the executive with the power to subjugate the rulers through threats of prosecution for any offences, however minor."

"The power to prosecute is a powerful weapon which, in the hands of the ruthless, can be abused to great advantage—not by prosecuting the alleged offender but by withholding prosecution in return for his cooperation," it warned.

Without the immunity, the rulers would be left defenceless against the government and render them susceptible to executive pressure, it warned.

"One solution which will ensure that the present institution of constitutional monarchy will continue to be protected and the rulers' dignity maintained is to have the rulers themselves discipline their own," it said.

The Constitution could be amended to provide for the establishment of a royal tribunal to inquire into any complaint of gross misconduct of any ruler, it said.

"The solution, if it is to be satisfactory and long-lasting, cannot be found in a rush," it said.

Johoreans Urged Not To Attend Sultan's Function

BK3012141092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir has advised the people of Johor not to attend the 8 January function at the Johor Baharu Istana [palace]. He said Johor Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Tan Sri Muhyidin Yasin has been advised by the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Supreme Council not to get involved in the function. He said that it is true that Semangat '46 [opposition party] is involved in the gathering. He said this to newsmen after meeting UMNO leaders at the Putra World Trade Center in Kuala Lumpur.

His royal highness the sultan of Johor today invited Johoreans who were loyal to him to attend an audience ceremony scheduled to be held at the Istana next month. However, the sultan issued a warning that this ceremony should not be used for political interests of any party.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is UMNO president, said the government could not (?prevent) the Istana from holding such a gathering. The gathering can be held at the Istana without the police permit as long as it is held within the Istana compound. However, the UMNO Supreme Council had advised Johor menteri besar not to attend the function and there was evidence that a political party was involved in the function. The prime minister said the proposed amendment to the Constitution would be handled in a proper manner and not through confrontation. In view of this, he has asked the chief ministers to brief their respective rulers on the government's intention.

Meanwhile, UMNO will organize a nationwide information campaign next month to explain to the people the proposed amendment to the federal Constitution to withdraw immunity granted to the Malay rulers. UMNO Secretary General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the campaign was necessary to help the people understand the issue clearly and give their support. The move will also overcome a campaign by certain parties to confuse the people by twisting the facts. He said this to reporters after a meeting between UMNO leaders and party president Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur. Datuk Mohamed, who is information minister, said the campaign, to be held during the second week of January, is not too late as the people have been following the latest development on the issue through the mass media. Yesterday, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said UMNO would organize, if necessary, a large-scale information campaign to explain the issue of the proposed amendment to the people.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Reportedly Kill 14 Villagers 27 Dec

OW2912073992 Tokyo KYODO in English
0717 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec. 29 KYODO—Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces killed 14 villagers, including 12 Vietnamese, and injured 14 others Sunday night in Kompong Chhnang Province in central Cambodia, a spokesman for the United Nations peacekeeping mission said Tuesday.

The spokesman of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia said the Khmer Rouge troops attacked a village 35 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital city Sunday night.

The Khmer Rouge, militarily the strongest among three guerrilla factions that fought a 13-year civil war with the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government, has ignored a peace accord signed in October last year and refused to disarm.

KR 25-28 Dec Military Activities Reported

BK3112050392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Dec 92

["News Flash"]

[Text] According to Security Ministry sources, lately the Khmer Rouge [KR] have continued to indiscriminately harass the State of Cambodia [SOC] side, causing appalling devastation to our people.

At 2130 on 27 December in Kompong Tralach district of Kompong Chhnang Province, 24 Khmer Rouge soldiers from the inundated forest at Kdei Punlich village in Ampel Toek commune infiltrated Kompong Ta Ches village in Koki commune. They fired seven B-40.5 rockets and many AK rounds on the houses of villagers living along the river banks there, killing 12 Vietnamese nationals and two Cambodians and wounding 14 others, and they also stole 100,000 riels and a cassette recorder.

At 0700 on 25 December in Svay Leu district of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, Khmer Rouge troops launched a 10-minute raid against our positions at Ta Penh and Khnang Phnum villages. And from 1800 on 25 December to 0500 on 26 December, they fired many H-107 shells on the Svay Leu district seat and the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] positions there. Also on 26 December, they fired 25 shells with DK-82 and DK-72 guns on the areas on coordinates 00/13 and 03/20. They also positioned 76.2-mm and DK-85 guns and 122-mm cannons in readiness for an imminent raid on the district seat.

At 0300 on 27 December in Chikreng district of the same province, a truck carrying logs drove over mines planted by Khmer Rouge in an area on coordinates 64/46 in Pongro Leu village. As a result, the vehicle was damaged and a police officer was injured.

On 28 December, a group of Khmer Rouge soldiers from the 93d regiment of Division 920 fired 12 120-mm mortars on the police administrative post in Lveng Russei. They also fired 25 DK-82 and 60-mm shells on O village but no casualties were reported.

At 1200 on 27 December in Ek Phnum district of Battambang Province, a group of 25-30 Khmer Rouge elements from the 408th regiment of Division 948 infiltrated, attacked, and plundered property of the people at Samraong Sral and Samraong Khnong villages in Kompong Sambuor commune. They fired many B-40.5 rockets and sprayed M-16 and AK bullets on the villages. As a result two villagers were killed and three others wounded; five houses and four shops were burned; and 13,870,000 riels, 2,000 baht, $100, a quantity of gold, eight cassette recorders, and some materials worth 18 million riels were taken.

We vehemently denounce the savage and cruel actions of the Khmer Rouge, which has always nurtured its ambition to return and again massacre our people. As the only force capable of effectively thwarting their criminal design, the SOC wishes to reserve the right to defend itself, ensure security for the people, and maintain law and order so as to make an active contribution to the forthcoming elections.

Sihanouk Faction on Phnom Penh Coalition Talk

BK2912131692 Hong Kong AFP in English
1309 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Dec 29 (AFP)—The Cambodian political faction loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk Tuesday spurned suggestions it would link hands with the Phnom Penh government before elections, but said a coalition was possible afterwards.

"FUNCINPEC wishes to leave all options open pending the results of these elections ... no one has the right to decide ... because it (would) deny the freedom of the Khmer people to vote freely," the faction said in a press statement.

FUNCINPEC is the French acronym for the Sihanouk faction, one of four making up the quadripartite Supreme National Council (SNC) charged with ruling Cambodia with the United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) until the May 1993 polls.

The statement was issued here hours after senior Phnom Penh government advisor Uch Kim An told a press conference in Phnom Penh that it expected to share power after the elections.

Uch Kim An made specific mention of FUNCINPEC as a coalition partner, but added that the prince had steadfastly refused.

Diplomats and FUNCINPEC members in Phnom Penh have said a recent spate of attacks on FUNCINPEC offices appear to be related to the refusal.

"Under the present political circumstances, it is not appropriate to talk about a coalition formed before or after the elections," the faction's statement said.

"The proposed coalition government will depend on the choice of the people and the outcome of the elections themselves," it said. "No one has the right to decide on this very important question, because it means to deny the freedom of the Khmer people to vote freely."

Observers here noted that the one-page statement left open the possibility of a post-election coalition by saying: "If the people wish to see a government of coalition ... after the elections, they would cast their votes more or less equally to those parties which, as they wish, will form a coalition government."

The statement concluded by urging all Cambodians to commit themselves to national reconciliation "at this critical juncture", and "reminded all Khmer political parties" that the attacks on their offices were against that spirit. [passage omitted on background material]

'Diminished' Khmer Rouge Troop Strength Viewed

BK3012025992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Dec 92 p 7

[Excerpt] The diminished strength of the Khmer Rouge means an outbreak in large-scale fighting in Cambodia is now unlikely despite the possibility of sporadic clashes, political scientist Khian Thirawit said yesterday.

Dr Khian placed the guerrillas' current military strength at 8,000-10,000 but said they could probably draw on a small reserve of reinforcements if needed.

The guerrillas' war-time strength was estimated at about 50,000 at its peak, falling to about 35,000 in the final years before the peace agreement was signed in Paris in October 1991.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has about 15,000 armed troops among the 22,000 staff it has deployed in the country.

Dr Khian said the presence of UNTAC and war-weariness among the Cambodian people were other deterrents against a renewed outbreak of large-scale fighting.

But the sinologist left open the possibility of the Khmer Rouge creating "confusion" if they found the general elections "unfair". The guerrillas would have the means to "topple the scoreboard" if they thought it expedient, he said.

Dr Khian has recently returned from a week-long trip to Cambodia and, before that, met senior Chinese officials during a visit to Peking.

He said China—the main backer of the Khmer Rouge through the 13-year civil war—had distanced itself from the guerrillas.

In the new world order, it would be unwise for Thailand to "keep hitting its head against the wall" as national interest must come first, he told a gathering at Chulalongkon University organised by its Institute of Asian Studies.

Fighting between the Khmer Rouge and forces loyal to Phnom Penh has escalated in recent months.

Dr Khian said the northwestern province of Battambang and central province of Kompong Thom were the scene of recent clashes.

The Khmer Rouge have held out against disarming since Phase II of the Paris peace accord went into effect mid-June, and the UN Security Council has declared an oil embargo in an attempt to make them comply.

The guerrillas demand the withdrawal from Cambodia of "all categories of Vietnamese forces" as a main precondition.

The demand was repeated by Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan who held inconclusive talks with Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri here on Monday.

In an announcement launching their "National Unity of Cambodia Party" on November 30, the guerrillas made clear the party's participation in general elections would be determined in particular by the departure of all Vietnamese. [passage omitted]

KR Fire 'Direct Attack' on UN Personnel

BK3112061692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0609 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 31 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas fired a mortar barrage Thursday at U.N. personnel in what the United Nations called a "direct attack."

The shelling prevented a U.N. helicopter evacuating the 44 people, including troops, civilian policemen and military observers from Svay Leu, in Siem Reap Province, northwest of here, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

"This is a very significant development, the first time we have had a direct attack on the U.N." by the Khmer Rouge, Falt said.

Negotiations with Khmer Rouge officials in Phnom Penh to stop the attack "are not being very helpful," he added.

Falt said positions of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in Svay Leu came under mortar fire from the north at eight A.M. The barrage ceased at around 9:30 A.M. and UN officials decided to evacuate the personnel.

But shelling resumed at around 10:45 A.M. before a helicopter sent from Siem Reap could land. At midday the UNTAC personnel were still pinned down and unable to leave, but no casualties were reported.

The UN party comprised 27 Bangladeshi troops, nine members of the electoral team, four policemen, two military observers, a signaller and an interpreter, Falt said.

"The firing was close, very close, close enough to force an evacuation," he said. "The situation has become so dangerous that all UNTAC personnel in the area were to be evacuated."

Falt refused to say if there might be a link between the Khmer Rouge attack and the introduction Thursday of UN sanctions against the faction for its refusal to participate in the Cambodian peace process.

"On that I have no comment," he said. "What we are dealing with here is a military attack."

KR Continue Shelling UN Troops

BK3112101692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 31 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas Thursday launched their first direct attack on U.N. peacekeepers in war-torn Cambodia, pinning them down and preventing their evacuation by unleashing a mortar barrage.

U.N. personnel were still holed up in their position in Svay Leu, as the Khmer Rouge continued to fire their mortars eight hours after the attack began, said a U.N. spokesman.

No casualties have yet been reported from the site of the firing, which is in Siem Reap province northwest of here.

"We are gravely concerned for the safety of those who are there," U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said in the afternoon.

"This is a very significant development, the first time we have had a direct attack on the U.N." by the Khmer Rouge, Falt had said earlier in the day when the attack began.

A helicopter sent to evacuate the 44 people, including troops, civilian policemen and military observers, had not been able to touch down as the shelling continued, said Falt.

The U.N. party comprised 27 Bangladeshi troops, nine members of the electoral team, four policemen, two military observers, a signaller and an interpreter, Falt said.

Negotiations with Khmer Rouge officials in Phnom Penh to stop the attack "are not being very helpful," he said.

The U.N. group may have to spend the night at Svay Leu if night falls with the firing continuing, as U.N. personnel try at all costs not to travel in darkness.

The attack came as the United Nations readied to slap at midnight Thursday sanctions against the faction for its refusal to participate in the Cambodian peace process, but Falt refused to say if there might be a link.

"On that I have no comment," he said. "What we are dealing with here is a military attack."

An embargo on exporting logs out of Cambodia was to go into effect with the start of the new year. The trade has not been independently quantified, but a spokesman for a Khmer Rouge spokesman said recently that it earned the Marxist faction less than one million dollars a month.

Falt said positions of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in Svay Leu came under mortar fire from the north at eight A.M.

U.N. officials decided to try an evacuation when the barrage ceased at around 9:30 A.M., but shelling resumed at around 10:45 A.M. before a helicopter sent from Siem Reap could land.

"The firing was close, very close, close enough to force an evacuation," Falt said in the morning. "The situation has become so dangerous that all UNTAC personnel in the area were to be evacuated."

It was the second time in a week that the Khmer Rouge has pounded the area around Svay Leu, which is controlled by a military faction loyal to the Phnom Penh government. The area is contested by the Khmer Rouge.

Falt said that after shelling on December 24 and 25 civilians in the area had fled for safer locations and were not in danger from Thursday's attack.

"This is the second time we have had to evacuate our personnel because of shelling in various areas," Falt said, referring to the evacuation of UNTAC personnel from the Thai-Cambodian border two months ago after intense artillery shelling.

Sihanouk Sends Greetings to Khieu Samphan 26 Dec

BK2912015692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] On 26 December, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], sent a greetings message to His Excellency Khieu Samphan, head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and member of the SNC. Here is the text of this message.

Esteemed excellency:

I have received your telegram dated 25 December thanking and greeting me on the occasion of the international New Year.

My wife and I would like to express our deepest thanks to you and your PDK delegation for the recent visit to me in Beijing.

This was an honor and a good opportunity for me and my wife to meet you and your delegation and talk and learn about our country.

On the occasion of the 1993 international New Year, my wife and I would like to extend our best wishes to your excellency and the PDK. May you and your PDK enjoy happiness and glory and achieve new successes in serving our beloved motherland.

Please, your excellency and the PDK, accept our best regards and warmest and deepest affection.

[Dated] Beijing, 26 December 1992
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.

Sihanouk Sends New Year Greetings to People

BK3012070592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Dec 92

["Message from Prince Sihanouk to His Beloved People" in Beijing; dated 1 January 1992—read by announcer]

[Text] Beijing, 1 January 1993.

Beloved older and younger brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and compatriots:

On the occasion of the international new year, I, prince father, prince grandfather, and prince great grandfather, wish to extend my thoughtful sentiment, love, and true loyalty as well as the warmest and best wishes to all of you. May you enjoy happiness, prosperity, and the five blessings of Lord Buddha.

Although away from you due to serious illness, I am always thinking of you and our sacred motherland.

On this occasion, I have the honor and pleasure of offering you a movie called "My Village at Sunset", which will be screened on the television of the State of Cambodia. This is the newest movie with Cambodian actors that I have produced in our motherland for the first time after my exile of 22 years and I wish to dedicate it to all of you whom I profoundly love. I hope that you will like my movie.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.

Khieu Samphan Urges Continued Struggle in 1993

BK3112024992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Dec 92

["30 December New Year Greetings Message From His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and Member of the Supreme National Council"—recorded]

[Text] Respected and beloved compatriots and all the combatants and cadres of Democratic Kampuchea: Today is the last day of the old international year of 1992, and the beginning of the new international year of 1993. On this occasion, I would like to extend my best wishes to the respected and beloved compatriots both inside and outside the country, combatants—male and female alike—and cadres. May all of you have the best of health so you will be able to further join hands to successfully implement the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, allowing Cambodia to genuinely regain independence, peace, and neutrality within its territorial integrity.

Respected and beloved compatriots and all comrades-in-arms: Our struggle in 1992 is immensely significant and linked to the survival of our Cambodian nation, people, and race. As you know, since the existence of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, the Yuon [Vietnamese] Hanoi aggressors, the Phnom Penh puppets, and the alliances inside and outside UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] have not implemented the Paris accord allowing Cambodia to recover independence, peace, and neutrality within its territorial integrity. On the contrary, they have executed a modified agreement with the intention of decimating the national Cambodian resistance forces, specifically Democratic Kampuchea, thus preventing Cambodia from regaining independence, peace, neutrality, and sovereignty. It is under the altered agreement that the Yuon of Hanoi have been allowed to further invade and occupy Cambodia via their insignificant Indochinese federation strategy.

First, the Yuon continue to retain old Yuon forces in all appearances in order to shore up the puppet regime that they have installed in Phnom Penh. And second, since the signing of the Paris accord, the Yuon Hanoi have employed a new form of warlike invasion, that is, the war of human aggression allowing the influx of Yuon people into Cambodia so as to modify Cambodia's demographic, political, and economic geographies for the purpose of completely Vietnamizing the Cambodian society. So far, the Yuon in Cambodia number more than two million, or a quarter of the present-day Cambodian population. This also includes over one million Vietnamese carrying Cambodian identity cards who can neither speak a single Cambodian word nor read a single letter of the Cambodian alphabet.

Respected and beloved compatriots and comrades-in-arms: The situation in 1992 has been of vital importance in the survival of our nation, people, and race. This was clearly indicated by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], in his 14 December 1992 statement, which says that the 1992 situation concerning Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity was extremely bad.

Now 1992 has already passed. However in that year, we all joined forces to conduct the struggle in rural and urban areas and abroad, constantly crushing and defeating the strategies of the Yuon aggressors and the alliances inside and outside UNTAC, which have jointly swallowed Cambodia via an altered agreement. The result is great and very significant. It represents our historical victory in the safeguarding of our nation, preventing it from total demise in 1992.

Nonetheless, the issue of the Vietnamese annexation of Cambodia remains conspicuously before us with the presence of more than two million old and new Vietnamese who are fully supported by the alliances inside and outside UNTAC. That being the case, our duties in 1993 will remain heavy. The Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces as well as the peace- and justice-loving countries the world over are duty-bound to jointly continue their struggle until the Paris 23 October 1991 accord is correctly and fully implemented so as to enable Cambodia to survive as an independent, peaceful, and neutral country within its genuine territorial integrity, thereby guaranteeing security, peace, and stability in the whole region.

Heng Samrin Opens School, Hails Policy

BK3112101392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 93

[Speech by Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, at 30 December high school inauguration ceremony in Kompong Speu Province—recorded]

[Text] My respects to the venerable Buddhist monks; beloved Buddhists, young students, and compatriots; beloved guests of honor:

First of all, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and State of Cambodia [SOC] Government and in my own name, I would like to say I am delighted to take part in today's inauguration of the Sokha-Phali High School together with all venerables, ladies, gentlemen, compatriots, students, and teachers of Kompong Speu Province. This grand inaugural ceremony is deeply significant to our people who always link themselves closely to the slogan "The state and the people build together."

As all of you know very well, Kompong Speu is a province that has been devastated by the flames of war over the past two decades. It has been especially torn to the roots under the genocidal Pol Pot regime. However, thanks to the immensely dedicated efforts full of heroics made by all of you at all levels of the local administration and by all of you the inhabitants and Buddhist monks who have joined hands with one another and overcome all kinds of hardship, Kompong Speu Province has undergone a great change in its outlook and has become beautiful and radiant in all fields. Buildings, such as schools, hospitals, monasteries, roads and bridges, parks, markets, and so on, have been erected and opened to the public in large numbers. This is proven again, today—a historic day for Kompong Speu Province—as Mr. Sin Sokha and Mrs. Tan Phala are contributing much of their own assets to the reconstruction of their hometown with the donation of this magnificent high school.

This precious gift undeniably shows their true sense of patriotism. The generosity of Mr. Sin Sokha and Mrs. Tan Phali certainly sets a good example for other compatriots who are in a position to help Kompong Speu Province make a rapid development. The CPP and the SOC Government express deep thanks to Mr. Sin Sokha and Mrs. Tan Phali for sacrificing their own wealth for the sake of the bright future of our coming generations. Their names will be remembered forever by the entire people of Kompong Speu Province.

I take this opportunity to inform all of you of a number of developments concerning the Cambodia problem, especially since the signing of the Paris peace agreement on 23 October 1991. During the past year of the agreement's implementation and especially after the CPP and SOC Government had invited and accompanied our august Prince Father back to his beloved motherland and restored to him his title as the legitimate head of state that he enjoyed before 1970, the situation has evolved and progressed in all sectors. At the same time, through this agreement, the United Nations, the international community, and political forces opposed to us could clearly see the realities surrounding the rebirth of the Cambodian people. In the past, it was their understanding that we were an oppressive Communist regime that deprived the people of their rights and liberties.

During the past 14 years, both the CPP, the SOC Government, and all our people made all kinds of sacrifices for the growth and glory of our homeland. However, many of the achievements we made were hampered by the Khmer opposition groups, especially the Khmer Rouge who have waged an incessant war of destruction against us. Even now that our motherland has reached the stage of national reconciliation to put an end to the war that has debilitated our beloved Cambodian homeland for more than two decades, the Khmer Rouge still refuse to stop their destructive activities against their own nation. Not only have they spurned the world's assistance, but they are making every effort to accelerate their subversive actions both in the political and military fields in violation of the Paris peace agreement to which they themselves are a signatory party, thus creating an atmosphere of chaos and complexity in the entire national community. This constitutes a most worrisome threat to our homeland's peace process.

As far as we are concerned and in our capacity as the ruling administration and the host party, not only have we—the SOC faction—been active from the outset in strictly implementing all the accords defined by the agreement, but we have also paid closest attention to doing everything possible in order to mobilize the great force of national unity for the sake of a peaceful and prosperous homeland. We have overcome all difficulties, exercised restraint and patience, and made countless concessions. In inviting His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk to return to the motherland; creating all the conditions for Him to fulfill the royal mandate of national reconciliation; voicing our unwavering loyalty to Him; expressing our support for His candidacy in the coming presidential election of Cambodia; and proposing that the presidential election should precede the election of the constituent assembly, the CPP and SOC Government have the sole purpose of seeing the Angkorian homeland prosper in peace and the Cambodian people live in happiness and harmony. We have done everything to oppose the military violations by the Khmer Rouge faction and to cope with the complex situation resulting from external factors. Our aim is to maintain a stable situation, which is necessary for the success of the agreement's implementation and for attaining the final objective: to hold free and fair elections in the very near future.

On the contrary, the Khmer Rouge have sought by all means to turn themselves into an obstacle blocking the peace process at every step. So far, the agreement breaches by the Khmer Rouge have been intensified on a daily basis. For example, there are violations in the provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom. Acts of terrorism and banditry in populated areas and cities as well as provocations and agitations to create chaos and anarchy have markedly increased in comparison with the past. These acts have contributed to endlessly prolonging the suffering of the Cambodian people.

Despite being condemned by international and public opinions, the Khmer Rouge stubbornly and arrogantly continue to carry out wanton violations. This shows that the Khmer Rouge have not abandoned their hope of using military force to overthrow the SOC in view of resurrecting the danger and tragedy of their three-year-eight-month-and-20-day regime in Cambodia. Therefore, we doubt that the upcoming free and fair elections can be smoothly held. We are sure that they cannot be held without incidents, for the Khmer Rouge will not benefit if they allow the elections to proceed peacefully as they know very well that they will be defeated in these elections.

Beloved ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots, in the very near future we will be holding elections in Cambodia with the participation of several political parties. Voting for any one political party is your right, ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots. No one can force you to vote or not to vote. However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that a single ballot means death or survival to all of us as it can bring us back to the genocidal regime of 1975-78. The election now is different from the past ones when the SOC was the sole contender. It is also different from the elections in other countries. This election by its character is one that will bring about a change of regime. It will not be merely the reshuffle of deputies, ministers, or councils of ministers. Our people have had bitter and most dangerous experiences about the change of regimes: more than three million Cambodians perished and the rest suffered countless miserable mishaps under the dark regime. These are experiences that should prompt all of you to carefully consider and reflect before making any decision in the coming election as it would mean death or survival to our entire nation and people.

We must see that when the country was facing danger, when the existence of the people was threatened by the genocidal regime, only one party—namely, the CPP—dared to stand up against the genocidal regime and saved the country and people from certain death, enabling each of us to survive and to enjoy full rights and freedoms which were completely trampled underfoot by the Polpotist Khmer Rouge during their reign when the people lived under constant threat and in constant worries and fears of the arbitrary wholesale slaughtering; when they were pressured to live in total ignorance; when they were forced to work when hungry or even sick; and when they were cut off from all human contacts and from having relations with their families, the society, or the outside world in the Polpotist Khmer Rouge's jail without walls. And now they are living again, enjoying real rights and freedoms.

However, after we had saved the people and the country, a number of political parties should now have joined with the CPP in preventing the genocidal policy from returning to Cambodia. On the contrary, these factions have instead set up political parties in order to join hands with the genocidal group and attack the Cambodian people. We wonder what is their fighting cause? Is it for defending the Cambodian people or is it for continuing the genocidal policy?

As far as the CPP is concerned, now as in the future, we are set on guaranteeing two important things:

First, we guarantee that the genocidal Pol Pot regime cannot return to power. Why can we guarantee this? It is because the CPP is the only party that toppled the Pol Pot regime and saved the people. Its policy is opposed to the Pol Pot regime. It is also a party that concretely has the capacity to prevent the genocidal regime's attempts in the past 14 years to return to power.

Second, we guarantee to treasure everything that we have achieved during the past 14 years, including both public property and private ownership. [Word indistinct] schools, hospitals, large and small public buildings, houses, lands, orchards, plantations, and vehicles are all guaranteed by the CPP. No one can touch them, revise them, or damage them, for these achievements are jointly made by all of us. We worked on them by pooling our sweat and blood. We built them from naught and we have them as we can see nowadays although we still have not reached the stage of affluence yet.

Beloved ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots, our major goal is to do everything so that the implementation of the agreement becomes a success. Therefore, in their capacity as the ruling administration, while striving to stop the Khmer Rouge violations, our competent authorities at all levels must enhance vigilance and mastery and closely cooperate with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in preventing as much as possible all the terrorist and rebellious acts in order to ensure security, public order, and social stability and protect the peaceful life of our people.

At the same time, I would like to appeal to all factions and political parties to show goodwill and sincerity and join hands, on a simultaneous and equal footing, in creating a neutral political environment. At the same time, I appeal to UNTAC to continue performing its mission on a neutral stand, to investigate and uncover in time the truth behind all incidents, and to take urgent measures against any faction or political party responsible for these negative phenomena. So that our motherland can advance toward achieving genuine peace, which is the earnest aspiration of our people, there is only one thing for all of us to do: the entire people of Cambodia must mobilize their great force of national unity, join with the CPP and SOC Government, observe patience toward immediate hardship, and follow the august prince father forever.

In conclusion, I wish you all, venerable Buddhist monks, excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, students, and compatriots, happiness. Thank you. [applause]

Hun Sen Receives French Defense Official

BK3012131092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1104 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Dec. 30—Prime Minister Hun Sen received here Tuesday, 29 December, Jacques Mellick, state secretary of the National Defense Ministry of France, who is on a visit to Cambodia.

Jacques Mellick arrived here Monday for a five-day fact-finding visit to investigate development of the implementation of the Cambodian peace process. He also planned to visit French contingents in a number of provinces and in Sihanoukville.

During talks, Hun Sen who is also member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) informed his French guest of the latest developments in Cambodia, especially the obstacles due to the Khmer Rouge's non-compliance with the accords.

He said that the Khmer Rouge has also invaded the State of Cambodia-controlled zones so as to expand its areas.

The Cambodian prime minister also highlighted the French contribution to the Cambodia peace process. France was a co-chairman of the Paris peace conference. He expressed thanks to the French Government for its efforts to bring [words indistinct] and its economic and educational assistance to Cambodia.

Japanese DA General Staff Chief Arrives

BK3112052492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0403 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Dec 31—A delegation of the Defence Agency [DA] of Japan led by Chief of General Staff of Self-Defense Forces Nishimoto arrived here Wednesday for a week-long visit to Cambodia.

Nishimoto, who was accompanied by Lieutenant General Mitsuo Sakudo and three other colonels, was welcomed at Pochentong Airport by General Meas Sophea, deputy chief of General Staff of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, and others.

Nishimoto's visit is aimed at understanding the implementation of the Cambodia peace agreement, and at visiting the Japanese troops who join the United Nations transitional authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

He also plans to have talks with Deputy Defense Minister Pol Saroeun and visit a number of provinces.

Leaders Receive Message From Lao Counterparts

BK3012071392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia [SOC]; H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, and H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the SOC's Council of Ministers, recently received a message of thanks from H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and chairman of the Lao Supreme People's Council [LSPC], and H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the LPDR.

The message mainly says: On behalf of the LPRP, LSPC, and the Lao Government and people, we would like to profoundly thank the CPP and the Cambodian National Assembly and government as well as the brotherly Cambodian people for their greetings on the LPDR's 17th national day.

We are firmly convinced that the time-honored and traditional relations of friendship and solidarity and cooperation between our two peoples and nations will continue to flourish.

May their excellencies enjoy the best of health and achieve new, still greater successes for your supreme cause.

Heng Samrin Thanked by Lao President

BK3112062292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 92

["Message of Thanks" to Heng Samrin from Lao President Nouhak Phoumsavan; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, recently received a message of thanks from H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

The message says: I would like to profoundly thank you and, through you, the Cambodian party and State Council as well as the brotherly Cambodian people for their compliments on my appointment as LPDR president.

May the time-honored and traditional relations of friendship and solidarity and multifarious cooperation between the two peoples and nations continue to flourish with each passing day.

May your excellency enjoy the best of health and achieve new, still greater successes for your supreme cause.

Indonesia

Commander: Irian Jaya Stable, Secure in 1992

BK3012092492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0832 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Jayapura (Irian Jaya), Dec 30 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the Trikora Military Command Maj. Gen. E. Mangindaan said that the security sitution in Indonesia's easternmost province of Irian Jaya during 1992 has been stable and secure.

In his address to welcome the new year here on Wednesday, the Trikora military commander said that the stable situation was due to the cooperation of the local people who are aware of the importance of stability for national development.

Mangindaan said that Irian Jaya needs to maintain and further improve its security arrangement to continue its development efforts in 1993.

He called on the local people to work hand-in-hand with the Armed Forces (ABRI) in safeguarding and building the unity and integrity of the nation in order to maintain stability.

The two-star general said that the results of ABRI's territorial development service which aims to build security resilience are encouraging.

ABRI's territorial development services touch almost all aspects of people's lives, he added.

The ABRI services are aimed at improving the welfare of the people, particularly those living in isolated areas in Irian Jaya, said the military chief.

He said that officers always help local communities to develop the people's security defence system to face any possible emergence of threats.

ABRI officers, civil servants and the people of Irian Jaya should be sensitive to socio-political developments leading up to the general session of the people's consultative assembly (MPR) in March in 1993, he added.

Dutch Minister Admits Misjudgment on Indonesia

BK3012075492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0731 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The Hague, Dec 30 (OANA/ANTARA)—Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation Jan Pronk has admitted that he made a wrong political decision in relation to the Netherland's development aid policy in Indonesia.

Minister Pronk ended 1992 by revealing issues behind the Indonesian decision to cut developmental cooperation between the two countries and simultaneously to break up Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI).

In an interview reviewing 1992 with the Netherlands TV and Radio Institution (NOS) which was broadcast on Monday, Pronk said that Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van den Broek's political policy on Indonesia was better than his.

Minister Van den Broek's judgement on 'Indonesian problems' was better than mine, he said.

On March 25, 1992, the Indonesian Government sent a letter to the Netherlands Government informing them of Indonesia's decision to cut developmental cooperation following the Hague's criticisms on the East Timor incident on November 12, 1991.

Jakarta angered by a report by Dutch cabinet to the Tweede Kamer (Dutch House of Representatives) which stated that the Hague, on behalf of European Community, would impose sanctions on Indonesia if Jakarta did not launch an independent investigation of the East Timor incident.

During the NOS interview, Minister Pronk admitted that he was responsible for this decisive sentence which resulted in the cutting of developmental cooperation.

If the report had not included the statement of which I was the author, Jakarta would not have cut the developmental cooperation between the two countries, he added.

At that time I did not realise how seriously Indonesia would judge such a statement, he said.

Bank clients at his office in Jakarta, Hendro Budianto, director of the Bank of Indonesia's Banking Supervision Division, said that clients should not pin too much hope on the central bank and expect the bank to repay the clients' money deposited with the Summa Bank.

Budianto stressed that as a financial institution, the Bank of Indonesia finds it dificcult to grant the clients' request to repay those who have deposited more than 10 million rupiah in the Summa Bank.

Laos

Chinese Community Youth Delegation Visits

BK3012064892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] The high-level delegation of the Chinese Communist Youth Center led by (Song Topho), member of the CPC Central Committee and first secretary of the Chinese Communist Youth Union, arrived in Vientiane at noon today for a six-day visit at the invitation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee.

Welcoming the Chinese youth delegation at Wattai Airport were Khamman Sounvileut, member of the party Central Committee and second secretary of the LPRYU Central Committee, high-level cadres of the LPRYU Central Committee, youth representatives from ministries, and a number of youths. Huang Guocai, PRC ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, was also present at the airport.

Leaders Attend Hmong New Year Celebration

BK3012071192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] The delegation of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee led by Vongphet Saikeu-yachongtoua, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the LFNC Central Committee, and Mounkeo Olaboun, governor of Vientiane Province, recently attended the celebration of the Boun Kin Chaing traditional new year festival of the fraternal Hmong people in Hom and Saisomboun Districts of Vientiane Province.

BK3012140192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Dec 92

["Statement" issued by spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic—dated 29 December]

[Text] Since mid-December, some 418 Palestinians who were detained in various areas in Israeli-occupied Arab territory have been deported by the Israeli administration to southern Lebanon in terribly cold weather, hunger, and troubles due to the shortage of food, clothing, accommodation, and other necessary items. Regarding this, the lawyers' department for humanitarian affairs filed an appeal to the Supreme Court against the Israeli Government decision on 22 December. The Supreme Court has, however, refused to accept the appeal. More serious still, the Israeli Government has even prevented the International Red Cross from transporting relief aid to the ill-fated Palestinians.

The Israeli Government's action is a distressing and inhumane one, which is against international law. It is also an uncivilized act. This act has badly affected the Middle East peace process, which has proceeded for more than a year.

The spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic solemnly condemns the inhumane act and demand that the Israeli administration immediately and completely put an end to this. The spokesman also calls on the world community, in particular the UN Security Council, to take appropriate and sacred measures to force Israel to end its undesirable act at once and to allow the Palestinians to return to their homeland.

Thailand

Checkpoints To Be Set Up on Cambodian Border

BK3112020392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] The Thai military will set up 17 border checkpoints on Thai territory in support of United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, a UN official said yesterday.

Kham Ran, a representative of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), made the disclosure after a two-hour meeting with Lt-Gen Amphon Chutaphut, the liaison officer for the Foreign and Defence ministries.

The outcome of the meeting marked a major turning point as Thailand previously was staunchly opposed to the setting up of checkpoints on its territory, citing reasons of sovereignty.

The checkpoints in Thailand would be located next to the same number of checkpoints which UNTAC plans to set up on the Cambodian side, Mr Ran said.

UNTAC's plan calls for nine of the checkpoints on the Cambodian side to be in Khmer Rouge-held territory, he noted.

To start with, UNTAC will try to negotiate for the setting up of three checkpoints, he said.

The setting up of checkpoints is vital to the enforcement of an embargo on oil supplies called by the United Nations Security Council exactly a month ago in an attempt to make the Khmer Rouge comply with the Paris Peace Agreement.

The radical faction has refused to disarm its forces and earlier this month detained UNTAC officials on four occasions for what they called unauthorised entry into their zones.

The checkpoints in Thailand will be administered by special task forces in charge of security along the border.

Trade With KR Still Allowed Except for Logs

BK3112041992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Thai traders are still allowed to do business on processed wood and other items with the Khmer Rouge [KR] after the 31 December deadline imposed by the United Nations Security Council and the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan says Thailand will observe the UN Security Council resolution against the Khmer Rouge which bars Thai traders from trading in logs after 31 December 1992. However, he says the UN Security Council has not imposed a ban on cross-border trade involving items other than logs. Thai traders can still continue their business unless Thailand is officially instructed otherwise. The deputy foreign minister also stresses that Thailand still fully supports peace in Cambodia and wants all the four Cambodian factions to observe the Paris accord.

Vietnamese Military Attache Calls on Wimon

BK3012150792 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung made a courtesy call on General Wimon Wongwanit, commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Army, on Dec. 28.

On this occasion, Ambassador Nguyen Trung introduced to the Thai General Colonel Nguyen Bach Van, the first military attache of Vietnam ever accredited to Thailand.

Gen. Wimon Wongwanit expressed his hope that the Vietnamese-Thai relations would further develop to provide a basis for the enhancement of the friendship and cooperation between the two armies.

Ministers Confirm Burma Troop Pullout From Hill

BK3012145592 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak confirmed that Burmese troops had, since 25 December, pulled out from Hill 491 on the border of Chumphon Province. He said the report claiming that Burmese troops were still at Hill 491 was inaccurate. Asked how appropriate it would be under the agreement for the forces of each country to withdraw by 1 km from Hill 491, Gen. Wichit replied that in principle the geographical terrain should be taken into account. In fact, it should be about 30 km away from the range of artillery fire. This, however, would depend on each particular case. He cited as an example that Iraq chose to pull back 5 km from the border with its neighbor.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan, in his capacity as chairman of the Thai delegation to the Thai-Burmese Border Demarcation Committee, also reported that all Burmese troops have been pulled out from Hill 491. Shelters have been filled up, and a number of land mines detonated. He said everything went according to the agreement and there is no more danger on Hill 491.

Touching on the Cambodian issue, the deputy foreign minister said Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri has reported to the cabinet about his meeting with Khmer Serei Leader Son Sann and Khmer Rouge Leader Khieu Samphan on 28 December. According to the foreign minister, some problems are still unresolved. The Khmer Rouge believe that there would be problems concerning the election if the Vietnamese are still in Cambodia. But Squadron Leader Prasong has pledged to try his best to achieve a peace settlement in Cambodia.

Asked about a possibility of Thailand hosting a meeting of the four Cambodian factions, Minister Surin said Thailand wants to see a settlement among all Cambodian factions. Without an agreement, a serious conflict could flare among Cambodian factions again. He said Thailand does not want to see that happen.

Deputy Foreign Minister Interview on Indochina

BK3112024192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Dec 92 p A6

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan by THE NATION Editor Thepchai Yong on Bangkok Thai Color TV Channel 9's "Face the Nation" program; date, place not given]

[Text] [Thepchai] Thailand's foreign policy in the past three months has been dominated by the country's reaction on the Cambodian issue. Did Thailand mishandle the whole issue of economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, thus contributing to the general impression in the international community that Bangkok was not happy with the sanctions because the country was too sympathetic with the Khmer Rouge?

[Surin] We came to office at the end of September. As you recall, the UN resolution has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council for quite sometime. When we got into the office, we were spending a lot of time trying to put together the government's policy statement. So the attention was being focused on the policy statement.

In November, the issue of sanctions became heated up. We tried from the beginning to tell the world, to the UN Security Council, and every forum that we could participate but any resolution on sanctions must be realistic and take into consideration ground realities on the Thai-Cambodian, Laos-Cambodia and Vietnam-Cambodia borders. Certainly, we would comply but there are unresolved issues and unclear areas in the sanctions itself. Even the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) officials could not answer those questions themselves.

These contracts (with the Khmer Rouge) are legitimate business concerns. The contracts have been encouraged and led by the international community, by the Thai Government prior to the Paris agreement, hoping that any relationship that the Khmer people establish with the international community would somehow soften the situation and discourage any chance of violence or going back to confrontation once again.

All these contracts are legitimate and because of this when we decide to place a moratorium on the export of these items (timber, petroleum, and petroleum products) coming from Cambodia, we have to try to do our best to accommodate the interests of the people who have gone in good faith to tone down the confrontational condition that exists in Cambodia.

We are asking whether the deadline [should] be pushed forward a little bit more so as to allow these legitimate contracts to fulfill at least some part of their business obligations.

[Thepchai] How do you explain the question of logging ban that is being imposed by the Supreme National Council. What if sawmills are established inside Cambodia. Can you clarify that?

[Surin] These are legitimate questions we have to ask. About the export of petroleum products, our various agencies are looking into the problem and making preparations to comply with the UN resolution. However, there is a perplexing question: How are we going to cope with other agencies, organizations and individuals not having direct business links with the Khmer Rouge but are doing business with Thailand? Some of the products handled by these groups make their way to Khmer Rouge-controlled areas. How do you create regulations to make sure that UN sanctions are effective?

Some of these questions might not have been raised and there is a possibility that later on, Thailand would be put again in an awkward position. We are seeking these clarifications in order to make the sanctions effective. If the resolutions are not effective, that would mean UNTAC cannot perform their peace-keeping functions effectively. The overall implications will definitely mean that security on the Thai border would be jeopardized.

[Thepchai] Are you suggesting that the sanctions are not realistic?

[Surin] We are seeking clarifications on practical details so as to make them more realistic.

[Thepchai] Foreign Minister Prasong has met with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan. What kind of leverage has Thailand over the Khmer Rouge?

[Surin] Contrary to international opinion, we have much less leverage toward the Khmer Rouge than what the world thinks. With regard to this, I think China can testify to that fact that they still have the influence they previously had. We are trying to rationalize with the Khmer Rouge leaders by convincing them that it is in their best interests to participate in the peace process.

The Khmer Rouge is one of the signatories to the Paris Peace Agreement and as of such (with the current events) the group could be seen as obstructing the peace process and staying away from the implementation of the Paris Peace Accords. We have moral obligation to do that (to prod the Khmer Rouge into the peace process) and that is what we precisely are doing. We are expecting support and sympathies from friends and allies.

[Thepchai] Have you tried to read the mind of the Khmer Rouge?

[Surin] Certainly, they have some complaints that the peace agreement has not been implemented to the fullest of its terms. They are worried about the remnants of Vietnamese troops inside Cambodia. They would like to have a verification (that all Vietnamese troops have left Cambodian territory) by the UN or acceptable legitimate authorities inside Cambodia. These are the lingering questions that are plaguing them. As outsiders, we must leave that to them to decide.

Our only responsibility is to facilitate and persuade the Khmer Rouge to remain in the peace process. They must get on with it and any complaints they have would be addressed within the framework of the peace process.

[Thepchai] Why do you think Thailand appears to be sympathetic to the Khmer Rouge?

[Surin] You have to take into account that all along, we have been supportive of the Cambodian peace process together with our ASEAN friends. We have been working with the four factions prior to the peace agreement. It just so happens that the areas the Khmer Rouge are in control [of] are adjacent to Thai territory. So any business dealings involving the Thai private sector have been with the Khmer Rouge.

Those inevitable contacts could convey that Thailand is close to the Khmer Rouge. In reality, we are active and faithful to international efforts to bring just and lasting peace in Cambodia. It is unfortunate the international community and the press are saying we are dragging our feet in implementing the UN Security Council resolutions.

[Thepchai] What about the Thai Army, which has close ties with the Khmer Rogue? Do they have the same stand as the government on this issue?

[Surin] Definitely, the Prime Minister's Office is in close touch with all establishments in the armed forces. They are listening to the political leadership. The political leadership ensures that we do our best to comply with and help in any way we can the Cambodian peace process. It also will make sure that it (the peace process) holds so that there is just and lasting peace in Cambodia.

[Thepchai] What if the Khmer Rouge still refuses to return to the peace process. Does Thailand think the UN should go ahead with the election tentatively scheduled in May next year?

[Surin] I think all indications and all efforts are being put into the election in May. I think one way or other the whole UN apparatus is geared for the polls in that period. Right now, the overriding question is whether to have a presidential election before the May polls. Thailand is exploring that possibility and we are seeking support from friends.

[Thepchai] What were their reactions?

[Surin] They have been divided. Some said that Prince Norodom Sihanouk is the only candidate, therefore we should go ahead. If not for the general election of the president, then there should [be] some kind of process that would legitimize the selection. Some are saying we certainly should not put too much effort and resources into the preparation of the presidential election. We should have the general election first as specified in the Paris agreement.

[Thepchai] Japan is planning a major policy speech on Southeast Asia during the upcoming Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit here. Since you were in Japan recently, do you have any idea of what he wants to say?

[Surin] Well, certainly I do not have the details of what he will be saying precisely, but I think it is good sign that he has decided to speak on Tokyo's policy statement towards Southeast Asia. This is certainly important more so because it will be made in Bangkok during the second leg of Premier Miyazawa's visit. Certainly, we welcome the decision. We certainly would like to make the occasion as special and as important as our Japanese counterparts will want to make it. The PM's office is fully engaged in making the necessary preparations. All agencies in the Thai Government are making sure that the visit is productive, smooth and beneficial to all concerned.

[Thepchai] I have heard that the Japanese prime minister will stress Thailand's role in being the gateway to Indochina.

[Surin] Thailand being described as the gateway to Indochina is in due recognition of its geographical, historical and cultural ties with the Indochinese countries. We are trying to make Thailand a gateway or center of gravity as the prime minister has put it in the past.

In all the activities in the region, we are not competing with our friends and allies. In fact, we are trying to facilitate global efforts to bring Indochina into the international system. Since the end of the war in 1975, people in Laos and Cambodia have seen so much suffering and destruction and divisiveness. If Thailand can be of any help to assist the region's reintegration in the international system, then we will do our best.

Because of our level of technological development and being an open country served by various international agencies, it is inevitable then that Thailand should be the focal point of various forces in the region. The prime minister used the word "new equilibrium" particularly for cooperation to develop the Mekong River. All these words and phrases point to the fact that we are willing and prepared to serve as the focal point of the equilibrium between the various forces.

[Thepchai] Is this the focal point of the Indochina Development Fund?

[Surin] The term of Indochina Development Fund was espoused by former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan. I don't have the privilege of knowing the details. My trip to Japan gave me the impression the leaders of Japan are willing to listen to concrete proposals from the Thai side.

Of equal importance from the Vietnamese and Laotian sides would be the specific steps we should be taking together in bringing development to the Indochinese states. I make efforts to convince my Japanese friends that development and cooperation in Indochina certainly should not be held hostage to the situation in

Cambodia. Peace already exists there and we should go ahead. We should make peace fruitful in Laos and Cambodia. That is the only way to prepare for long-term development and cooperation in Indochina.

[Thepchai] Is the Thai Government pursuing "constructive engagement" towards Burma?

[Surin] Since the PM has announced the idea of Thailand's commitment, we certainly don't see the isolation of Burma as in our line of policy. Our Japanese friends and other friends seem to agree on the point that total isolation is not the answer.

How much we can help reintegrate Burma in the international system is to be decided. Steps have to be discussed, support has to be solicited from friends in the international community. Certainly, we can only persuade and warn our friends that the world has certain expectations, especially so on the standards of behaviour with regard to the issue of human rights and of issues dealing with democratization. However, the affairs are totally in the hands of the Burmese leadership. We only can serve as a window and a mirror reflecting international expectations and desires. At the same time, we can serve as a conduit for the Burmese leadership to look out to the world. We are quite limited in our resources to bring about any change, or any influence and leverage in Rangoon. We are working (in our capacity) as a neighbour.

[Thepchai] Do you see any progress in Thailand's relationship with Saudi Arabia?

[Surin] We have been in close touch with the Ministry of Interior, which has a supervisory control over the Police Department and is responsible for Saudi issues. They promised some progress on three cases: the slaying of three Saudi diplomats, the murder of one Saudi businessman, and the jewelry case.

We are waiting for the results of the investigation. Without those results, I certainly do not see any way the Saudi Government will consider the improvement of Saudi-Thai relations. Meanwhile, we are currently in touch with the Saudi authorities on various levels. We look at the relations in two parts.

We will try to resolve the problems that exist. At the same time other linkages, other exchanges and discussions will have to go on. Our people have to go to Saudi Arabia. At least 10,000 people a year go to Mecca to perform their hajj. There are cultural and historical ties between the two peoples. We will continue to exchange and pursue to build what we call measures of confidence-building between the two countries. Until and unless the three important cases are resolved or at least partly resolved, I am not very confident that we will have normalization soon.

[Thepchai] What kind of resolution do you think the Saudis want to see?

[Surin] Fortunately, the Saudi authorities know quite a bit about what happened. The question is how much the Thai authorities are willing to tell them of what we know. The question is whether what we know is in agreement with what they know.

Thailand is an open society, the investigators from Saudi Arabia or investigators appointed by the Saudis can do their investigation in Thailand. They have a lot of information in their hands. We cannot go on acting like we don't know anything. We cannot go on giving them faulty stories, or expect them to forget. I don't think that is correct. The Foreign Ministry is trying to coordinate with various agencies who are directly responsible for those cases, especially the Police Depattment and Interior Ministry. We are getting good signals and good reports back. We are hoping [for] something concrete within the next few days from both agencies.

[Thepchai] In the last interview, you said Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai would adopt a hands-on policy on foreign affairs. Has he done that in the past 3 months?

[Surin] Premier Chuan is interested in the Cambodian issue. He has asked the PM's Office to look into new ways and new efforts on how Thailand could play an active role. Certainly the Foreign Ministry is in close coordination with the PM's Office on issues of foreign trade and export. The Prime Minister is interested in the issue of GATT.

He is making his first trip to Malaysia in the next few days. That would be a major step in his effort to promote Thailand and reassure friends that there is normalcy in the country. Also the Premier will make it known that Thailand is ready to engage itself in any international affairs that friends in the region expect it to be active in.

Overview of Prospects for Economy, Democracy

BK3112034792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Have a Happy Year of the Rooster"]

[Text] Thailand's resilience in recovering from the coup in 1991 and the bloody May crisis in 1992 to achieve an economic growth rate of around 7 per cent this year is indeed remarkable. The NESDB [National Economic and Social Development Board] and several non-governmental bodies predict the Thai economy will grow slightly faster in 1993, perhaps reaching the rate of 8 per cent, while the inflation rate will remain roughly the same as this year's 4-5 per cent. This is the good news that we shall take into the new year, the Year of the Rooster.

There is even more good news from the business circle: Thai exports in 1993 may exceed Bt [baht] 1,000 billion for the first time. Some more conservative estimates put the figure at around Bt960 billion, which will still be a healthy increase of 15 per cent from 1992.

1993 will also see lower interest rates in Thailand as major industrialized countries try to end the recession by keeping interest rates low. Thai interest rates are expected to drop further with the start of the Bangkok International Banking Facilities in the second quarter. The projected deficit of Bt25.6 billion in the 1993 budget should have little adverse impact on the domestic financial market.

Manageable Debt

Thailand's external debt amounted to $37.6 billion (about Bt958.8 billion). This resulted in a debt service ratio of about 10.6 per cent of export revenue, which is still a manageable level, especially when the value of the country's international reserves rose from $18.4 billion (Bt469.2 billion) in 1991 to $21.5 billion (Bt548.2 billion) in 1992.

Tourism, unlike the Thai economy in general, has been rather slow to recover from the Gulf War, the coup and the May crisis. Income from tourism dropped to an estimated Bt95 billion in 1992, from the all-time high of Bt 110.6 billion in 1990. But 1993 should see some improvement in this top foreign exchange-earning industry, and most experts expect income to exceed BtlOO billion in 1993, especially if economic conditions in industrialized countries pick up as expected and the current public relations campaign to erase the negative image of Thailand succeeds .

Thailand should be able to capitalize on its ideal geographical location as a gateway to Indochina, Kunming in southern China and Burma. In order to maintain the status of a leading tourist destination in this part of the world Thailand must not waste any more time in building a second Bangkok international airport at Nong Ngu Hao, an idea conceived over two decades ago. The chaotic traffic situation in Bangkok must also be more vigorously dealt with at the highest government level because it is one chronic problem that has serious national consequences—and it is getting worse year by year because of the rapid growth in the population and in the number of vehicles.

A large number of rural people continue to pour into Bangkok each year to look for jobs and a better living standard. Consequently the Thai capital will become a megacity with more than 8 million (officially) crammed into its borders by the year 2000. But in fact, judging from the growing city traffic, one has the feeling there are 10 million people in Bangkok already.

The influx of rural people into Bangkok will continue as long as one quarter of the Thai population, mostly families in rural Thailand, have to make ends meet on a meagre income of Bt 1,725 a month. Only recently have official Thai planners begun to concede that the country's rapid economic growth over the past two decades has benefitted mostly a handful of business elites and the urban middle class. Worse still, the number of Thais living below the poverty line (with annual earnings of less than Bt20,705 per family of five in rural areas, and Bt31,620 in urban area) has been increasing.

Make democracy work

The Chuan administration, whose rise to power was made possible by the fearless defiance of the military by pro-democracy demonstrators during the May crisis, owes its good political fortune to them, particularly to the families of those 50 or so demonstrators killed by security forces.

The least the Chuan coalition can do to repay this invaluable debt is to make parliamentary democracy work and serve the people honestly and tirelessly. For it is to this fledgling democracy that Thai people are looking for help to improve their living standards, protect their political freedoms and enhance their dignity.

With the democratic parliamentary system in place and the economy picking up, Thailand enters the Year of the Rooster with more self-confidence and brighter hopes. And so we at THE NATION would like to wish all our readers and their families a very happy and successful 1993.

BOI Issues Guidelines To Sustain Growth

BK3012035792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 92 p B1

[Text] The Board of Investment [BOI] yesterday announced a set of seven guidelines to sustain investment growth in 1993 when prospects appear brighter, but the board warned that the phenomenal growth rates recorded in previous years are unlikely to be repeated.

The BOI will pursue its effort to further remove barriers to investment. It will try to ensure that businesses have the lowest costs possible and can compete in the international market. Industries geared towards domestic markets will be encouraged to move into the provinces where the government will invest in more infrastructure to make their operations viable.

The government will also accelerate its spending programme to help stimulate the domestic demand. It will also ensure that mega-infrastructure projects go ahead as scheduled.

Extra assistance will be given to small- and medium-sized industries to produce parts and components for large manufacturers. Labour-intensive schemes will be directed to the provinces with extra incentives, the BOI said.

Overseas, the BOI will attach great importance to target industries for investment in Thailand, including automotive parts, metal parts, rubber products and agribusiness industries.

In addition, the BOI will support Thai businesses to invest overseas especially in Asean and the Indochinese neighbours, which are the emerging markets for Thai goods.

Mega-infrastructure projects will be the driving force behind the investment sector in 1993 and will help to increase sales by manufacturing industries tapping the domestic market, according to the BOI.

The BOI said mega-projects like the installation of the three million telephone lines construction of three oil refineries, upstream petrochemical units, and skytrain projects will drive the economy.

The BOI does not anticipate a sharp growth in foreign investments in Thailand because major economies like Japan, the United States and Europe have been undergoing structural changes to speed up their slow growth. Protectionism and a reduction in trade privileges will contribute to fewer foreign investments here for export production.

Countries like Japan, Taiwan and South Korea are looking to more attractive places for export production. Among the newcomers are China and the Indochinese countries. Vietnam, for instance, should have higher economic growth if the US lifts its trade embargo.

Premier Endorses Countercorruption Commission

BK2512070092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Dec 92 p A5

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday pledged full support to the Counter Corruption Commission (CCC) in its fight against graft in government circles.

Chuan said the government attached great importance to the anti-corruption agency and would do everything necessary to improve its efficiency including giving it enough funds and manpower.

"The anti-corruption operation is important in that it will help establish the rule of law in this country. Its success will show that no one is above the law," the prime minister said.

He said the government would throw its full support behind the CCC in case it encountered difficulties while investigating alleged corruption by high-ranking government officials. Chuan acknowledged that superiors were inclined to protect their subordinates and thus make it difficult for CCC investigators to carry out their work.

"We will not protect wrongdoers," the prime minister said. He said the CCC must strive to improve its efficiency all the time both in investigation into corruption charges and the prevention of graft.

The prime minister, speaking to senior members of the CCC who called on him at Government House yesterday to brief him on the anti-graft agency's operations, said he was satisfied with its improved performance over the past several years.

CCC Chairman Sak Sanongchat told reporters after the meeting with the prime minister that he was given an assurance that the anti-graft agency would have the full backing of the government, particularly its proposal for increased manpower and amendments to the anti-corruption law which is riddled with loopholes.

"I believe the proposed amendment to the Counter Corruption Commission Act, which has been delayed, would be promulgated by Parliament within the term of the present government," Sak said.

Asked whether he had discussed with Chuan the proposed transfer of the CCC to the Secretariat of the National Assembly, Sak said the CCC would remain under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office.

The CCC chairman said he would now report directly to the prime minister instead of the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the PM's Office.

He said the CCC handled an average of 150-200 cases of alleged corruption a month and that the investigations were usually treated in confidence.

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan, in charge of supervising the CCC, said the government would support the CCC's proposal to amend the law to give investigators more powers.

Revenue Collection Unaffected by New VAT

BK3012035192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Dec 92 p 26

[Text] Fears that the introduction of value added tax (VAT) and the slowdown in imports could cut government revenue have proved unfounded according to figures released by the Finance Ministry yesterday.

The figures show that the Government's tax collection amounted to 74,665.1 million baht in the first two months of the 1993 fiscal year (which began in October 1992), 9.2 percent higher than the target, said Finance Ministry spokesman Somchainuk Eng-trakul.

Mr Somchainuk said tax collection by the revenue, excise and customs departments was above target by 1.75 percent, 10.71 percent and 13.99 percent respectively in the first two months of the fiscal year.

It was the first time in the past 13 months the Customs Department's tax collection was above target. The better-than-expected result was attributed to the increased volume of imports following the release of a Bank of Thailand forecast that private investment would increase 5.4 percent in 1993, compared to 1 percent of this year.

VAT collection was 6.64 percent or 1,104.13 million baht above target and amounted to 17,729.71 million baht.

The Revenue Department collected 35,393.15 million baht in tax, the Excise Department 20,470 million baht and the Customs Department 16,596.25 million baht.

Despite the strong collection figures, the Finance Ministry is considering imposing an excise tax on some luxury products, such as wide-screen television sets and some entertainment places including night clubs and massage parlours.

Outstanding public debts on November 30 1992, totalled 602,248.87 million balt, which included 296,387 million baht in domestic loans and 305,861.87 million baht in offshore loans.

Cabinet Approves 2d Phase of Port Construction

BK3012032592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved a Bt [baht] 3.02 billion proposal for the construction of the second phase of the Map Taphut Industrial Port from the Ministry of Industry.

The proposal was endorsed by the House economic committee and construction will be carried out under the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) and the ministry.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchphak has been given the responsibility of ensuring that the second phase of the bulk and general cargo terminals meet the targets set by the committee, especially concerning the use of the Laem Chabang commercial port. The Cabinet was told that the terminal had lagged far behind its set targets.

Suphachai will also be expected to improve the management of the port in an effort to provide incentives for shippers to use it and help ease the congestion at Bangkok port.

The Cabinet was told that a study by consulting engineers had indicated that more than 3,000 ships a year could be expected to use Map Taphut Industrial Port from 1996 onwards.

The committee also proposed that the government set up a standing admmlstrative agency to oversee projects on the eastern seaboard to try to stop foreign investment bypassing Thailand for Indochina.

These projects, involving the public and private sectors, are worth more tha Bt300 billion in private sector investment and over Bt1OO billion in public funds. Udon Tanthian, chairman of the House economic committee, said they could be a major factor in revitalizing the economy.

"China and the Indochinese countries have become our main rivals in terms of cheap labour and inexpensive land capital that foreign investors will find more attractive," he said.

Improved Ties With Saudi Arabia Sought

BK2612143692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said that the Foreign and Interior Ministries have been coordinating with each other and keeping contacts with the Saudi Embassy in Thailand in a bid to find ways to improve relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia. Through diplomatic efforts and personal relations, the dialogue with the embassy yielded satisfactory results.

Surin said the prime minister has entrusted him to expeditiously solve the problem through cooperation with Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut. In addition to the jewelry theft [by a Thai worker] from a Saudi palace, Saudi Arabia is frustrated by the disappearance of (Muhammad 'Uvali), a Saudi businessman who came to Thailand in 1989. The incident occurred only one month after the assassination of an official of the Saudi embassay. So far, the investigation has made no progress.

The Thai Government has expressed its determination to improve relations with Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, job placement agencies in Saudi Arabia are keeping close watch on this issue. The normalization of relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia will enable Thai workers to get more jobs in that country which will result in an increase in Thailand's foreign exchange revenue.

Vietnam

Foreign Minister on Khmer Rouge Atrocities

BK3012151992 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 30 Dec 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—"The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam vehemently condemns the Democratic Kampuchea faction's terrorist acts against honest Vietnamese nationals living in Cambodia", said Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam in a letter dated Dec. 30, 1992 addressed to the secretary general of the United Nations, the two co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, the countries signatories to the Paris agreement, the SNC [Supreme National Council] president, and the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] chief in Cambodia.

The letter says:

"With deep concern I send this letter to you concerning the Democratic Kampuchea faction's continued barbarous acts of terrorism and slaughter against Vietnamese who are living and working lawfully in Cambodia.

"As you know, at 21.30 hrs on December 27, 1992, a group of Democratic Kampuchea troops attacked a fishing hamlet beside the Tonle Sap River in Kompong Tralach District, Kompong Chhnang Province. They rounded up Vietnamese and killed 14 persons including 12 Vietnamese, and injuring 14 others.

On December 2, 1992, Mr. Eric Berman, deputy spokesman for UNTAC, confirmed that Democratic Kampuchea was responsible for the above-mentioned massacre.

"This is a new act of terrorism and massacre conducted by Democratic Kampuchea following many previous ones against Vietnamese in Cambodia in the past period especially since July 1992. These brutal acts of the Democratic Kampuchea faction against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia are a brazen challenge to human conscience as well as to public opinion in the world.

These barbarous acts are serious violations of the principles and objectives of the U.N. Charter, of the international declaration and other international conventions on human rights including the right to corporal safety stipulated in Article 5 of the convention on abolition of all forms of racial discrimination, and the right of the ethnic minorities to protection and help. These are also an extremely gross act of violation of the Paris agreement and the attached annexes.

The Democratic Kampuchea faction's violations of human rights and their stubborn refusal to join the second phase of the ceasefire in Cambodia seriously endangers the political solution the Cambodia issue, and is a challenge to the international community and a danger to peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The government of the socialist republic of Vietnam requests the UN, UNTAC, the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, the countries and parties signatory to the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the SNC and the international community as a whole to take drastic measures to put an end to such bloody acts of Democratic Kampuchea.

I am confident that in your capacity and with your responsibility you will take strong and urgent measures to stop the serious acts of violation against human rights being committed by the Democratic Kampuchea faction in Cambodia in order to force them to seriously observe the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet Interviewed

BK3012062892 Hanoi VNA in English 0602 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—In 1992 a new trend is opening in all fields of social life, said Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in an interview with Vietnam News Agency on the occasion of the new year. Premier Vo Van Kiet said: "In 1992, we have achieved an overall success in economy, and for the first time we have overfulfilled the main targets of the plan. That is the combined result of many factors accumulated in many years, demonstrating the great efforts of all strata of our people. These achievements originated first from the party's policy and orientations of renovation, from the new managerial mechanism and from intensive investment in the bulding of material and technical bases and also from the open-door external policy". Asked to elaborate on the priority programmes in 1993 and their significance and prospects for the country's stability and development in the coming time, Premier Vo Van Kiet said: "From 1993, our party and state decide to mobilize all sources of capital at home and attract more capital from foreign countries to accelerate the building tempo of the projects under way, enlarge or improve equipment and begin building the infrastructure of a number of major projects, particularly roads and harbours.... At the same time, we must start building economic zones of great potentials, in order to achieve quicker, and more effective steps of development to support other zones and push up all the socio-economic activities. Our state has determined three key economic zones to be developed in the strategy up to the year 2000, namely Hanoi-Haiphong-Quang Ninh-Ho Chi Minh City-Bien Hoa-vung Tau and Danang City in central Vietnam which have harbours and international airports. These zones will be developed not only for their own sake but also in the interest of the whole country.

Premier Vo Van Kiet also pointed to the importance of the reform of the state administrative system in terms of their functions tasks and mutual working relations, as well as reform of the work style and personnel training, in order to renovate basically the state administrative offices, shift from the old administrative and bureaucratic system of management to management by law thus step by step building and effective managerial apparatus trusted by the people.

Vo Van Kiet Discusses 1993 Tasks at Meeting

BK3112094592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] On 29-30 December, the SRV Government held its year-end conference under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. The conference reviewed the government activities in 1992 and discussed tasks for 1993.

In 1992, the government has made great progress in its guidance and supervision of tasks as acknowledged by the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session. Achievements scored by the government, ministries, sectors, and administration agencies have significantly contributed to fulfilling various key targets, effectively curbing and containing the inflation, and creating new developmental steps for the economy.

Members of the cabinet spent times discussing and examining various shortcomings and weaknesses in various domains, especially the cultural and social activities to draw on experiences for future supervision.

Worthy of note are setbacks in resolving pending issues of various domains, slow enforcement of the state laws, ineffective implementation of the government's lines and policies, slow amendment to inappropriate law provisions, indecisive action against mistakes in state management at sectors and localities, and delay in overcoming bureaucratism at various state agencies. These shortcomings have adversely affected achievements in the 1992 socioeconomic development program.

In 1993—the significant year for the 1991-95 five-year plan—the government should take advantage of new opportunities to strengthen its guidance and supervision and to enhance its efficacy on the basis of the government's duties and powers stipulated in the Law on Organization of the Government.

To fulfill these requirements, the government has formulated a program of action for 1993 which include 10 major tasks as follows:

—To continue to curb and to contain inflation, to stabilize the financial and monetary situation as well as the market prices;

—To develop production and business, to strictly abide by the state law, and to maintain order in socioeconomic management;

—To take further significant steps in suppressing corruption and smuggling, in opposing prostitution, and in eliminating drug addiction;

—To continue to perfect the management mechanism to create favorable conditions for economic components to develop their production and business;

—To continue to strengthen the policy on foreign trade and economic activities;

—To satisfactorily carry out programs to resolve unemployment, to improve wages, to strengthen policies on social welfare, and to stabilize and develop the people's daily life;

—To institutionalize and organize the implementation of the party resolutions on cultural, arts and literary activities, education and training, and the population and family planning program;

—To strengthen supervision over tasks related to national defense and security and foreign affairs;

—To enhance guidances to localities, especially key areas, mountain regions, and zones of ethnic minorities; and

—To implement the 1993 law-making program and to take a further step in improving the administrative and justice sectors.

To effectively carry out these 10 key tasks, the government shall design concrete tasks and essential measures and shall charge members of the cabinet with the responsibility of carrying out these tasks under the supervision of the prime minister.

The government asks all ministries, agencies attached to the government, and echelons of the people's committees to strive to firmly grasp the government's program of action to effectively carry out activities in their sectors and localities. The government also calls for better coordination between mass organizations and societies.

At this conference, the government discussed measures to suppress prostitution and drug addiction. Prostitution, after a period of inactivity, has developed again in various cities and at tourist places.

The conference analyzed the causes leading to various social vices as well as their serious consequences. It has asserted that prostitution—under any forms—is a social vice that causes serious and long-term adverse effect to society that must be eliminated by all means.

The conference noted that drug trafficking and addiction are also developing. This is another social vice causing adverse effect to various domains of the social life. We must resolutely struggle against this social vice. The government will make decisions, formulate measures, and charge responsible agencies and echelons of the administration with the task of mobilizing the people's strata to participate in the struggle against these two dangerous social vices.

The government also heard a report on results of the implementation of Directive No. 135-HDBT on strengthening the maintenance of social order and safety. The government contended that during the past period various sectors and echelons, with the people's strong support, have scored many achievements in the struggle against criminals, in eliminating social vices, and in strengthening social order and safety. It is necessary to say that activities in this regard have been inactive during the recent months while the social situation has grown more complicated.

The government urges that in the days ahead, various sectors and echelons must continue to implement Directive No. 135-HDBT in a consistent, positive, and vigorous manner so as to contribute to firmly maintaining political stabilization and ensuring social order and safety, thereby creating favorable conditions for fulfilling various tasks related to the socioeconomic development program.

Taiwan Widens Lead as Top Foreign Investor

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[by Andrew Sherry]

[Text] HANOI, Dec 30 (AFP)—Taiwan widened its lead as the top foreign investor in Vietnam in 1992, but sleeping giant Japan started to stir in the final months, figures released Wednesday show.

Vietnam licensed 190 foreign investment projects worth 1.9 billion dollars in 1992, according to the figures released by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI).

That brought to 4.1 billion dollars the total value, in terms of investment capital, of projects licensed since communist Vietnam introduced an open-door economic policy five years ago.

Only 1.2 billion dollars has actually been brought into the country so far, half of it in 1992, the SCCI said in its weekly newspaper, the Vietnam Investment Review.

The figures excluded projects that had their licenses cancelled.

Taiwanese companies, which are developing three large industrial parks in southern Vietnam, have obtained licenses for 70 projects worth 1.09 billion dollars, nearly half of that this year.

Hong Kong was second with 98 projects worth 475.5 million dollars, many in the hotel sector, and France third with 299 projects worth 322 million dollars, including two oil exploration ventures.

Japan, which languished in eighth place at mid-year, leaped to fourth with a total of 29 projects worth 310 million dollars.

In October alone, as Tokyo prepared to announce the resumption of government loans to Hanoi, Japanese firms won 17 licenses for projects worth 170 million dollars, the two largest in the oil sector.

Australia (14 projects worth 304.3 million dollars) slipped from third to sixth place behind Britain (14 projects, 280.4 million dollars), but is expected to rebound in January as major oil and mining projects are licensed.

Industry, petroleum, and the hotel sector have attracted the heaviest foreign investment, with SCCI saying investment in agriculture, forestry and fishery were not yet satisfactory.

Most of the projects remain small, an average of about 10 million dollars, in a sign many major players are still waiting for the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo and improvements in the country's infrastructure and investment procedures.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, in an interview published Wednesday, said Vietnam would strive in 1993 to attract more foreign investment to infrastructure, notably ports and bridges.

The National Assembly last week passed ammendments to the foreign investment code to encourage this, notably allowing foreign invested ventures to obtain licenses of up to 50 and in some cases 70 years, and for foreign firms to carry out infrastructure projects on the build-operate-transfer basis.

Despite efforts of economic planners to spread investment geographically, 75 percent of foreign invested projects have been in the south, notably Ho Chi Minh City with 217 projects worth 421 million dollars—more than three times Hanoi's total.

The other leading foreign investors in Vietnam included: 7. Holland (seven projects, 271.5 million dollars), 8. the Confederation of Independent States [as received] (43 projects, 221.1 million dollars) 9. South Korea (17 projects worth 150 million dollars) and 10. Canada (10 projects worth 112 million dollars).

Singapore, Vietnam's leading trade partner, closed in on the top 10 with a total of 24 projects worth 108.4 million dollars.

Ties With European Countries Reviewed

BK3012162792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Since the United States imposed trade embargo against Vietnam, relations between Vietnam towards Western and Eastern Europe developed mainly in the field of humanitarian assistance. Through nongovernmental organizations, the Western and Eastern European countries have assisted Vietnam with hundreds of million of dollars to overcome the aftermath of natural calamities.

Since the settlement of the Cambodian issue, these countries have been looking forwards to resuming development aid to Vietnam. Particularly, since Vietnam carried out its open-door policy, bilateral and multilateral relations with these countries have developed positively.

In 1992, many high level state and government delegations of Vietnam and West and East European countries have exchanged their visits. The talks between the leaders have led to the signing of a series of agreements on political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields.

In last November, Vietnamese Vice Premier Phan Van Khai paid a visit to Belgium, France, and the European Community. At the press conference in Hanoi after his visit, Vice Premier Phan Van Khai said: Statesmen and businessmen of Belgium, France, and the EC have a high appreciation for Vietnam's achievements in the process of renovation. And Vietnam's open-door policy has diversified its relations with all countries. They also highly value Vietnam's potentials and said that there is now a good chance for foreign investors to enter Vietnam. He said EC leaders appreciate EC relations with Vietnam and hold that these relations are of great importance in both political and economic fields.

In 1992, Vietnam's bilateral relations with West and East European countries took a new step. On the Vietnam-Belgium relation, beside Belgium's agreement of reduction of debt to Vietnam by $22.5 million, Belgium and Vietnam have signed an agreement on aviation, energy, and geology.

The bilateral relation between Vietnam and France is developing finely. At present, France ranks third in the list of 36 countries having invested in Vietnam and the fourth in the list of foreign trade partners with Vietnam. Of late, the French Government has signed an agreement on additional nonrefundable aid worth 50 million francs to Vietnam in 1992, bringing the total aid from 130 million franc to 180 million franc. France has also committed to help Vietnam clear its arrears with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and help Vietnam in asking for loans from financial organizations and governments of other countries.

The investment capital of East and West European countries in Vietnam accounts for half the total investment capital of foreign countries in Vietnam. Two-way trade ties are also developing, achieving hundreds of millions of dollars.

The relation between the European Community and Vietnam has also been developing. Since 1990, the EC has assisted Vietnam with the program of reintegration for Vietnamese returnees. In the first phase of this program, the EC donated $12.5 million and in the current second phase, $120 million. This assistance has brought about encouraging results. The returnees have been provided with jobs and their life has been stabilized. Worthy of note is that the illegal departure from Vietnam is reducing remarkedly.

Trade ties between Vietnam and the EC have also been developing. In 1991, the two-way trade turnover was $18 million. Recently on December 15th, Vietnam and the EC signed an agreement on the trade of textile for the five-year period, starting January 1st, 1993. This agreement is to serve as a basis for textile and garment trading between Vietnam and EC member countries.

Leaders Greet Castro on Cuban National Day

BK3012150392 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—Vietnamese party and state leaders today extended their greetings to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, president of the State Council and the Council of Ministers, on the 34th national day of Cuba (Jan.1)

The message jointly signed by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, said :

'We firmly believe that the heroic Cuban people under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by yourself, by holding high the banner of revolution and self-reliance, will overcome the present difficulties, successfully implement the resolutions of the 4th party congress and continue advancing the revolutionary cause of the Cuban people'.